

GENUINE
MEMOIRS
OF
JANE ELIZABETH MOORE.

Late of Bermondsey, in the County of Surry. K

WRITTEN BY HERSELF:

CONTAINING

The singular Adventures of Herself and Family.

Her Sentimental Journey through Great Britain;
specifying the various Manufactures carried on at
each Town.

A comprehensive Treatise on the Trade, Manu-
factures, Navigation, Laws and Police of this
Kingdom, and the necessity of a Country Hospital.

To which is prefixed

A POETIC INDEX.

-
- " Let envy howl, while heav'n's whole chorus sings,
" And bark at honor not confer'd by kings;
" Let flattery sick'ning see the incense rise,
" Sweet to the world, and grateful to the skies;
" Truth guards the Poet, sanctifies the line,
" And makes immortal verse as mean as mine.

Pope's Satires.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N: .

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COUNTRY.

M. J. O. 1. 1. 1.

JANE ELIZABETH MOORE

WRITING BY J. E. MOORE



THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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P R E F A C E.

CONSCIOUS of the presumption,
I may be censured with, in
uttering (from a female pen) a
treatise on the trade, manufactures,
laws, and police of this country, it
may be proper to inform those of my
readers, who are not personally ac-
quainted with me, that I have both
in theory and practice, been wholly
conversant in the most active part of
life, from my early age, being insti-
gated to such steps from the extra-
ordinary adventures, which have in a
most singular manner, attended my-
self and family, reversing (in that
particular) the usual province allot-
ted

P R E F A C E.

ted to others of my sex, in which undertaking, with pleasure I declare, I was successful to my wishes, till from the pressure of the late war, and other concomitant circumstances, pointed out in the following memoirs, the whole of my former advantages have been cancelled, which being thought too interesting to pass unnoticed, I have been urged by some of my most warm friends, to the declaration of a scene of events, in routine, that I flatter myself, are too rare to be frequently specified; and should the misfortunes to which I have been subjected, point out the means to others, of escaping similar evils, to such as have followed me, in the course of the most poignant experience, either in the trading or private line, I shall be happy to have been the means of conveying such ideas

P R E F A C E.

ideas to the world in general, as may render me in any shape, a useful member of society.

This manuscript being finished on the twenty-eighth of April last, but from particular circumstances kept back, hope it will be no imputation of neglect, but several bills having been passed, similar to some items inserted, I wish to aver that no particulars whatever contained in those volumes, have been gathered from any other information than such as met my own observation on which account I thought it quite necessary to make this remark and solemn declaration on the matter.

Relying fully on the candor and generosity of the inhabitants of this seat of humanity (for success) in this undertaking, I trust no farther

P R E F A C E.

apologies need shew themselves, as to a certainty, every reader may rest assured, that not a single incident is here inserted, but is founded on the most solid truths, such being the sole basis of this publication, in full hope of approbation, I remain,

the publick's

most faithful,

most obedient,

and most humble Servant,

JANE ELIZ. MOORE.

I N D E X.

ON Gallic land my grandfire first had breath,
Where vines * profuse, (adorn the ambient
earth.)

In platform large, his ancient right he claimed,
In silver work and learning both was famed.
But urged to search wide nature's vast expanse,
He shipp'd his bark, (Columbus like) from France
In search of native ore, to Mexico he went,
Which to his wishes yield its full extent ;
But e're the briny ocean back he crost,
Oh, dire event ! both ship and cargo lost.
Lost too to pirates, who no mercy shewed :
But would their hands in his pure blood embrued,
But that on Providence he called for aid,
And in strong faith, implicitly obey'd.
Down from the side, upon the waves he rode,
Expecting each to wreck him from th' abode,
Of men on earth, to sink in wat'ry grave :
(Yet not his work complete) some means to save,
Was by the fates ordained to keep the man,
To fight in Briton's cause, a wonderous plan.

A ship

I N D E X.

A ship appears, a glorious fight to see,
 The stranger craved from vast eternity.
 'Tis Briton's province, bounty thus to shew,
 And gratitude is robed in brightest hue.
 In William and in Anna's reigns he fought,
 Inspired with courage true, (not wealth he sought)
 But just resentment filled his well warmed breast,
 Foretell'd in † stature, warned him home to rest.
 When home he went, a partner next he sought!
 To share each care, and most pathetic thought;
 A maid who had but breathed, ere he departed,
 Was now just grown, to whom he soon imparted,
 His wish most sanguine, shew'd in earnest truth,
 How well he lik'd her person, sense, and youth.
 They wedded were, and from their plighted troth,
 In nature's course, a daughter now brought forth.
 Beauteous in form, in virtue grown complete,
 She surged the wave, to milder laws retreat.
 But not before impress'd by tender thought,
 She had a contract made, and love had sought,
 In son of Mars, who brave was too and clever,
 That in her heart, he had the purest centre.
 But as trite fate the issue had decreed,
 Her lover went his country's cares to heed;
 And when on Albion's shore, herself she found,
 My father's heart she did most keenly wound.

To

† Being very low in stature, the Colonel promoted his Nephew out of course, upon which my Grandfather yielded up his Commission without emolument.

To a duenna, he, his soul imparted,
 A scheme was laid, that death her love had darted.
 Young and unskill'd, no parent near to guide,
 From hymen's altar, came his lawful bride ;
 The test of love betroth'd a story strange,
 Eight months elapsed, her peace again derange,
 (Ere time and nature had my being brought,
 On earth's wide span, its checquered scene had
 fought.

Strange checquer too, my pen must soon disclose,
 Two spots of dark, to one of light expose ;
 My foster'd father wak'd to love's alarms,
 Demands in toto, who possessed those charms :
 He now had earned in time, and toil complete,
 Her husband seen, he bids her tears retreat.
 Sad emblems of deceit on youth display'd,
 Her lover, pardon gave, though thus betrayed ;
 But still the scarous'd wound at heart was shewn,
 And grief took place where mirth its seat had
 known.

My birth, but blew the kindled coals anew,
 And love gave way to hate, and anger too.
 The parties each, alike their folly blame,
 And now too late for wrong or right to claim ;
 The sun twice more, its orbit race had been,
 When one more daughter in her arms was seen.
 But long the tyrant death, the stroke had given,
 And six months more, they soared both to heaven.
 Mother and sister, lost dread loss to me,
 A friend most wanting now, my needs to see ;

No

I N D E X.

No female guide, my infant woes begin,
 I suffered much myself, by others sin,
 Begun by mother lost, proceed by other gained,
 Whom virtue's path ne'er fought or vice restrained.
 Thus far advanced the varied scene began,
 And ill on ill, succeed in fortune's plan.
 The union broke of wedlocks sacred bands,
 Confusion rends his heart, (my father stands)
 Estranged, aghast, and friendless as he thought,
 Yet not by all forsook, as when he fought,
 His tale to tell, they pity on him took,
 The ordeal trial past his former cares forsook.
 But stung with sad remorse, in ill fate exerted
 No cure he found but wine, for love deserted.
 My father now, my needful aid did claim,
 But ten years past and not empower'd to aim;
 At learnings' task with pen or silk to shew,
 By strange neglect, to read was most I knew.
 Yet that in Lingo's two I must confess,
 But still was wanting, what I fought t' express.
 But as the time arrived to please my will,
 I soon in work excelled, and loved the quill;
 In various arts my genius well was tried,
 And fate decreed me often to decide.
 Where others failed, I useful chanced to be,
 And from my tut'refs oft did favours see.
 This scene veiled o'er, the curtain soon was drawn,
 On life's wide stage, at fifteen early dawn,
 A task laborious in my lot was cast,
 A glance more various, far than was the last :

Yet

I N D E X.

Yet still uplooking in this new career,
 Carefs'd by some, to others strange appear ;
 An absentee, some years at learning's shrine,
 My father wished a son his gift instead of mine.
 However, as my stars my doom had fixed,
 I seven years with most descriptions mixed :
 In town and country golden streams I sought,
 And with accumulation * sorrows bought ;
 Sorrows heart-felt, and piercing to describe,
 As face and sense appeared, (deluding bribe.)
 My fate thus sealed, at hymen's voted shrine,
 A son first crown'd our wish, next daughter fine.
 But both for heaven design'd, their stay was short,
 Above they soared, and left us both absorpt ;
 Absorpt in grief, as nature's dictates tend,
 Yet how propitious God, to take or send.
 Supreme his justice, judgments too so mild,
 Least prone to ill, (he takes the darling child.)
 Could we but chearful yield to his decree,
 How mild his precepts would appear to be.
 But oh ! how wild our passions, to controul,
 Unless religion, guards the inmost soul,
 My father next, entombed among the dead,
 Leaves me to Providence and husband's bread. *whose*
 Whose bosom then, his favorite vice concealed, *he did not*
 And then whose care, I thought an earthly shield, *she was*
 Some years we traversed land, and sometimes sea,
 With business mixed a full sufficient plea, *business*

To

* Meaning my marriage with Mr. Moore.

I N D E X.

To see how nature did diffuse her bounty,
From Glasgow north, to Cornwall west, each
county.

But as sometime elapsed in seeming ease,
The ills grew restless, nor the virtues please :
With fire and sword, with war and tumults teaze. }
With war abroad, corruption great at home,
My breast tormented, scarce new where to roam ;
My confidence betrayed, a horrid story,
And that too dreadful to describe and glory,
In such a vice as greater can't be born,
And in such moment how the soul is torn ;
But yet susceptible, where conscience bows,
And by fair promises, (ingracious shews)
My heart relented, and I kissed the rod,
Till death his seal had put, his scourge was shod.
Near twenty years in wedlock's union bound,
The heroine of this piece I now am found,
And trust e'er volumes three, are well dissected,
My candid friends † will've healed the part affected.
And as in duty bound I try to please,
As such administer their cordial ease :
(By this I mean to earn their future favors,
I ever lived and hope to do by labours :
Of head and pen, at such alone I aim,
Already due, my warmest thanks they claim.)
And should kind Providence my cause espouse,
Successful make me, (Pheonix like) disclose,
From dust by rays of genial warmth of sun,
I may again up rise, (e'er nature's glass is run.)

† By a full supply of subscriptions.

M E M O I R S
O F
JANE ELIZABETH MOORE.

CHAP. I.

HAVING in the index begun the genealogy of my family on my mother's side, it may be thought to favour of partiality ; but that being a natural cause, in allusion to sex ; I shall, without further apology announce, that my mother's father Mr. G——r, was born in the province of St. Onge, in France, in or near the city of Cogniac (which place being well known for its excellent

B cellent

cellent liquors, which are so much esteemed in this country, I shall specify no farther particulars) where he enjoyed the franchises of that place in common with other people of sufficient property to be entitled thereto; being heir to a good paternal estate, which had been much more extensive, and I am informed, had once a title annexed, but imagine in times of persecution those privileges were abridged in the protestant line; my family throughout have been strict adherents to that persuasion, (I think it a happy and favourable circumstance that it yet remains in hereditary hold) many of which are still with myself in being, though not all on the spot. Being of an active disposition, and possessing good abilities, he indented himself to a silversmith

smith and engraver of the city where he lived ; and after the expiration of the customary time for improvement, was desirous of seeing the place where nature was so profuse in the mineral world ; to gratify which curiosity, he fixed on the first convenient opportunity for enlarging his ideas in that particular, by seeing that extensive quarter of the terrestrial globe, so long passed over, by geographers of every description, to purchase silver in its original state ; preparatory to which he availed himself of what information he could possibly collect, needful for making such observations, as might furnish him with particulars sufficient to prevent too early an intercourse with the natives in his favourite pursuit ; in the course of which a remarkable circumstance

occurred; in taking leave, in a cordial and respectful manner, of his friends, he called at the house of one who was a distant relation, and at that time lay-in with a daughter; when, fondly embracing the dear infant, he jocularly remarked, that in process of time she might be his wife; which, however strange it might then appear, in the course of events, so happened. But to proceed: in due time, being properly equipped, the hero of my present tale set out on his intended voyage; and being capable of increasing his fund of knowledge, did not cease to enlarge upon the beauties of the creation, which were fully exemplified in the wonders of the deep.

When the time arrived for his landing on the South American coast, where, by proper application and inspec-

inspection, he attained the knowledge he sought for; and fully satisfied respecting the origin of silver, purchased what he thought sufficient, and reimarked in hopes of reaching his native land. But, how transitory are our enjoyments, and how vague our wishes! in the very instant of his highest expectations, being far advanced in that voyage, which was to crown his most sanguine desires; (by again meeting his dearest friends and relations) a most awful scene awaited; soon were his most flattering expectations, by one fatal stroke, buried in oblivion, and he found himself in the hands of the most barbarous savages: had the loss been sustained in combat, then might this transaction have been dispensed with; had valour and victory been united, then might this dire calamity

have been soothed with the pleasing satisfaction of knowing, that either the bold or brave would have been benefited by the capture: but, in this instance, fate had decreed the most cruel pirates to share the spoil: the vessel being captured, and soon overpowered by those worst of assassins, who, deaf to the cries of the unfortunate, and callous to every tender feeling, even from those who pleaded in behalf of their most dear connections, left them but one alternative to escape immediate death or future slavery, and that, dreadful to relate by yielding to the mercy of the waves, and immediately plunging into the sea; the latter of which was preferred by my grandfather; and being, no doubt, reserved for some important business in life, he was taken up by an English vessel, which soon
after

after appeared in fight, to the great relief of all the crew who had faith sufficient to trust to Providence in the attempt.

Once more launched on the wide world, in a strange though hospitable country, he had a fresh occupation to seek. Not chusing to return immediately home, after so great a disappointment of his most sanguine wishes ; but having, in this country, connexions sufficient to procure him a commission in the army, he determined to carry a pair of colours in its defence, which he did some years, and was promoted in due course, for a season, in the heat of contention : but times growing cooler, in the reign of queen Anne, and the colonel having a near friend to promote, suffered the French Protestant, (who being very low in

stature, though of an ambitious mind, to pass unnoticed, and yield to a British-born subject, notwithstanding he had received many compliments for his courage and attention. In this instance, as in many others, to the injury of every country under our notice, merit has too often the least share in matters, where emolument is concerned; and much it is to be lamented, that an impartial discernment which ought to steer in a direct medium every matter of importance, should, by those whose province it is to cherish the warmest wishes of every individual, whose efforts towards the good of the community render them objects deserving notice, be thus neglected.

Much disgusted, and being by birth in a situation far superior to many of his cotemporaries, Captain

G—r,

G——r, fired with resentment; yet not lost to that true politeness which constitutes the gentleman and man of courage, yielded his commission, without any sinister view whatever, to the mercenary cravings of that distributor of regal rewards, whose graspings at wealth were fully gratified, by receiving that from the hand of generosity, which could add, by pusillanimous means, to his coffers of ill-gotten treasure.

After the needful acknowledgments to his patrons, and a cordial leave taken of his friends in general; which, in this country were now competent to any he had left in France, he determined once more to return to the place which gave him birth; when, contemplating on the vicissitudes of fortune, which had attended him in the course of fifteen

years, there cannot remain a doubt of his having been most joyfully received. Every congratulation he met with, again bringing to his remembrance, the various strides the fates had made for and against him, which, in course, with a cheerful disposition, made him the desirable companion of his convivial associates. The beauties of his mind operating with such unlimited experience, rendered him capable of deciding in many abstruse matters; and redressing grievances, where the needy and unskilled required such assistance, which made him be held in particular esteem by all but the practitioners of the law, who certainly had reason to regret his interference; as by that means they were frequently prevented from coining those litigious suits, which are too often the cause of adding fuel to fire, and
blow

blow up the coals of sedition and strife, where harmony and friendship might otherwise prevail ; but of those, as of other professions, there are, that maintain the most upright principles.

Such being the character of the citizen of Cogniac, in diffusing bountifully the gifts which Providence and Nature had bestowed on him ; and who, being now improved, by the only means that can make a man essentially to know his duty, viz. afflictions, became a man of reason, in every sense of the word ; for whatever education, or other accomplishments he may boast, or whatever prosperity may attend him, he is but like steel, which coming rough cast from the furnace, must be tempered, and by filing and the most severe heat, brought to that fine polish.

which attracts the eye of the beholder.

I must not omit, in my chain of observations, to return to the remembrance of the young infant, who was just emerged into life, when her cousin embarked for new Spain. Fifteen years elapsed had rendered her the object of desire; and by receiving the necessary embellishments required in a female, with her natural accomplishments, was now deemed capable of exhibiting to advantage as a wife; and in the bloom of youth, was (by her friends) brought to his recollection, by the observation, he had made at his leaving her, to proceed on his voyage: and as the toils attendant on misfortune and war had induced him to wish for a partner, with whom he might divide his cares in retirement; he readily yielded

yielded to the emotions of his heart; and as his experience and enlarged ideas were admitted a palliative for a disparity of twenty years, it was fully agreed by all parties, that the union should be acceded to at the altar of Hymen; as soon as the necessary preparations could be made, which were attended to with all diligence, the marriage was celebrated, agreeable to the wishes of the whole family. I cannot, however, enlarge upon the history of the bride; as marrying so early, and within the cognizance of her own relations, I suppose her adventures were chiefly confined to her own connexions, and therefore all the information I have had of her was, that she was rigidly religious, and an economist in the extreme; and in that particular so much the reverse

verse of her husband, that had it not been for the estimate he was enabled to make of human life, it might have been a matter of serious controversy ; but his generosity and good humour was so happily contrasted to youth and a desire to oblige, that they lived many years in friendship and cordiality, an ornament to the marriage state, and were the happy parents of many children, five of whom attained maturity (my mother being the first) and three are still living : but my being born in this country, and having but little intercourse with the family (except one who is my first cousin and lives on the continent, in an exalted sphere of mercantile connexions), owing to the distance. I am not therefore able to ascertain the periodical times of each event ; but the facts being sufficiently

ly

ly authenticated, I hope, as a matter of little moment, it will not be deemed an error; as it has been with difficulty, I have been able to collect matter sufficient to enable me to trace the particulars so far back; but the family still bear the military arms of this country, and the gentleman, whose history I am here giving, died a martyr to the gout, about the year 1740, or 1741, leaving behind him a widow, and the five children already noticed, viz. two sons and three daughters, all amply provided for.

C H A P. II.

MY mother being the next in tradition, it must naturally be supposed (having lost her at three years of age) that I feel a most uneasy sensation in her behalf, well knowing the hardships I have endured, by being so early deprived of her; but as we are wholly in the care of that allwise disposing providence, under whose guidance and direction alone, we can encounter the ills, and foster the blessings of this world; why then repine at our fate? since
by

by so doing, we do but offend that omnipotent being, who is at all times, able to strengthen our most weak endeavours, when we apply to him in time of need. He can restore in his good season, whatever he sees most fit and suitable to our different necessities, and thereby avert the evil which must await, if we neglect his command: nor must we think that we can by any means be exempt from trials of our patience, in this state of probation: nor indeed, is knowledge to be obtained essentially, but by persecution, which, however, it may be veiled by the different habits in some shape or other, discovers its deformity, to persons of almost every description: let us then yield submissively, under every trying circumstance;

cumstance here, as an earnest to our future joy, in that world of celestial spirits—where there is no varying, or shadow of turning, and where the fruition of hope, may bear us to an eternity of happiness, and glory everlasting.

I have already declared my mother to have been the first pledge of love, in the alliance I have given in detail, and as I am informed was remarkably handsome, and a strict adherent to religion and virtue; she received a very rigid education under the austerity of her parents, the one being influenced by a contracted idea, and the other having from unlimited experience, and knowledge of mankind, seen the necessity (as he thought,) of early initiating youth to apparent hardships; they in conjunction therefore agreed,

agreed, to inure their offspring to every temporary difficulty, they could suggest.

WHETHER misconstruing the harshness of her parents, or from real attachment, I am not able to say, but on an application on the score of marriage when very young, she encouraged the most ardent affection for the officer (in the military line) who made such professions of love, as were not to be withstood; and I am led to believe, that she did not entertain the most distant thoughts of ever changing her opinion, respecting her lover, who I must confess, was long since my remembrance, a very agreeable man; and is still living in the south of France at a very advanced age; with all the gaiety of a man of twenty-five. But as we cannot enter the bosom of time, so neither

ther can we foresee events, for to the surprize and disappointment of all parties, Mr. F—— was ordered to duty far distant by his Sovereign, when no longer leave of absence could by any means be obtained. Thus circumstanced, there remained no alternative, but the parties making to each other, the most solemn professions, which love could dictate, to keep their faith; and with much regret, were constrained to a separation: the fatality of which was in a few years fully exemplified; for as the uncertainty of temporal concerns, leaves a great vacuity in the book of fate; so it proved between those who had ratified the contract in their hearts, as far as words could point out, and that, under a promise of their meeting again, where, or however they might be separated.

My

My mother, to avoid every temptation, that might in any shape cause her to recede, thought it most prudent to retire to the Island of Guernsey, where she had some particular friends, and was to be followed, the first opportunity, by the object of her felicity, at his return from duty; but, from what motives I never was informed,—she after two years, left her calm situation, to pay a visit in London, at a house where my father was a frequent visitor; and, where he no sooner beheld this enchanting young woman, (for such I am really told she was) then, he was struck with such an uneasy panic, that rest and ease, he was totally a stranger to; and the greater his aim to conquer this passion, the more restless was his mind, and found such corrosive
torment

torment at heart, and such a dread of disappointment, that at all events he was determined to make her his wife; notwithstanding the information she solidly gave him of her unfeigned affection, in her former attachment; and nothing seemed wanting on her part, to testify her regard for the gentleman, who, is still living, in which determination she remained unshaken. But, as the demon of vice is ever attentive to introduce adverse fortune, so he, through the artifice of a woman (lost to every sense of duty to her God, or regard for her own sex), projected a scheme, in favour of my father's design, by forging letters as coming from France with various accounts of the death of my intended, though mistaken parent.

Much

Much agitated, by the most poignant feelings, in which she was either soothed, or thwarted, agreeable to the operations intended by this brute in human shape; my mother, young and apart from those dear connections, whose guidance she so much needed, after a time spent in silent grief, was prevailed on by repeated schemes (of infernal origin) to listen (in the character of a virgin widow) to the farther intreaties of her future husband; a few months elapsing, sufficient to regain her spirits, and led to a confirmation of her lover's death, (which was held out as a certainty, by fabricating letters in succession, and withholding those which were intended and sent from her friends for real intelligence) she was at length prevailed on to go to church

church with my father, (in the year 1737) whose genealogy it becomes me now to declare, which is according to the best of my information, that he was born in the province of Poictou, in France, of very reputable parents, with whom he went early in life to the Canton of Berne, in Switzerland, where, in the leather manufactory he was brought up, and after, accumulating knowledge sufficient therein, spent a few years in the South of France, after which, he settled in this country, in the same line with great success; but of that, more will be said hereafter. One particular observation I cannot help making, viz. that he was born when his mother was at the advanced age of fifty, and that she lived till her son had attained the same number of years, when after

being only six years in a state of debility, she died in the year (completing the century) 1761 : nor indeed, do I believe, there are many of the family who remained in Switzerland, that died much short of eighty. So great an instance of longevity is but rare, which induced me to mention it.

But to return to the year 1737, after the celebration of the nuptials of my parents; eight months or however before nature had given me birth, disappointment operated so forcibly in the breast of Mr. F——, that urged by love and despair, he in pursuit of his darling object, — left France, finding their intercourse in writing at an end, he determined at all events, and at the risque of every other prospect in this world, to find her out, which he did with

much difficulty, notwithstanding every device which the evil genius of the old duenna was mistress of, was used to prevent a discovery: yet truth, being a bold assailant, evaded all the chicanery of the most cunning artifice; which in the end, could not screen her from the just resentment due for dissolving a union, which was certainly most sacredly cemented in the face of heaven. And oh! my pathetic gentle readers, judge in the most serious manner, what must be the emotions of my mother's heart, when, in a moment of unconquerable surprize, the object of her first affection appeared in sight; seemingly like Lazarus, as one arisen from the dead, and herself only at the age of nineteen, (and whose marriage, had seemed as a night errand scene in a strange country, and not a friend

a friend within her reach, to sooth her romantic, and irritated passions; and in the grand struggle of sincere, and compulsive duty, married to a husband of strict adherence to honesty, and industry; yet not sufficiently refined in his conceptions, or enough softened into tenderness, to take part with his wife, in this trite contest of reason and resolve; but Mr. F—— like a true disciple of experience, foreseeing the mischiefs, that were likely to ensue, entreated my mother, (who was then not in a situation to struggle with the efforts of real and feigned love) as her still faithful though ill treated lover, to dry up her tears, and cease, thus to agitate that mind, which he had known in the most pleasing serenity, and as the fates had determined on their separation, with all due conde-

C 2

scention

scution to bar her future unhappiness, by giving up every remembrance of their former professions; at the same time, giving her the strongest assurance of his forgiveness, of her breach of love, being thoroughly informed, by what means she had been deluded; yet, declaring to wreak his vengeance, on the just object of his detestation, who had cancelled his hopes in the conjugal state. But all efforts were vain, respecting a reconciliation, the keenest reflections taking place with my mother, and that worst of all fiends, (jealousy) in the breast of my conscious father, evaded all the arguments that could be used, as a palliative to discord and contention: nothing therefore, was now to be done; but to wait with true christian patience in the persecuted party, to
struggle

struggle with her now irreparable troubles, as a patron of true piety; and for my sake, (who must shortly be exhibited on this stage of confusion) to reconcile every thing that had happened in her own breast, under a fixed belief, that all things should work together for good, where faith, and grace go hand in hand.

Notwithstanding however, every argument that had, or could be used, the dire consequence of the above meeting, sealed my ever dear mother's fate; as from that period the variety of sensations, which were perpetually corroding at her heart, and my birth, (but adding fuel to the already kindled coals, of dissention)—by slow degrees, in the course of three years, and three months, closed the operations of disease in body and mind, by her departure into that world of spirits, from

whence there is no return, whither she was hurried in the bloom of youth, been then but twenty-two years of age; but she had notwithstanding been the melancholy mother of second daughter, which was born in a deep decline, having partook in every respect, of her dear afflicted parent's calamities in mind and body; and it pleased the Almighty, to release them both, nearly at the same time, my sister being about six months old. Much was aimed at, by every party concerned in the union of my father and mother, to screen her disorder, by saying, she caught cold in a grotto, by going in overheated with a walk: and likewise, as to her taking on her the part of an essential nurse, in yielding to me that nourishment intended to promote infant strength: but it was well known to those

those, who held her in great esteem, that the canker of disappointment, had laid the foundation of that distemper, which can by no means be eradicated in this life; but must resign to the grizzly tyrant, who levels all distinctions, without regard to either age, sex, or education.

The happy turn of my mother's mind in religious matters, had the most cordial effect in the different conflicts of her temporal situation, which certainly, is a presage to an immortal crown, to that alone, was owing her resignation to the will of providence, as she yielded her breath with the truest emblems of future expectation, I ever remember to have heard described, as it can only reach me by intelligence, the only recollection I have, was that of seeing the dear corpse put into the hearse,

being only then, three years and one month old; and however satisfactory the conclusive part of this detail, may be to me, as a christian, yet, the loss I sustained in such a virtuous, and amiable friend, brings a tremor in every vein at the recital of so alarming an event, as it certainly proved from the very moment I lost sight of so valuable a relation.

I should not enlarge so much on this serious event; but to caution persons who have the care of youth in every department, from acting collusively in matrimonial concerns, as by such unfair practices, much evil ensues to the young, for want of proper discernment, and in others, by sometimes stemming their avaricious views, in which is too often centered the whole of their design; and when disappointment takes place,

place, a concussion of the different passions gives an antidote to every emotion of the heart, tending to harmony and concord; and, instead of cementing a permanent union, propagates a discordant contest, which seldom ends, but with a final dissolution, on which account, at the same time, that too much precaution cannot be used in the choice of a partner for life; yet, I would wish to recommend to all those, whose province it is, to assist the attention of young people in that particular, to avoid extremes, either in age or fortune; but be guided by an adherence to that line of mediocrity, which, if properly established as a guide, in so essential a matter to all parties, may fix in them an unbiassed affection, and lead to that most agreeable of all temporal enjoyments, happiness in a married state.

CHAP. III.

HAVING made the needful remarks previous to my own adventures, it becomes me to declare, that I was born the 30th of September, in the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty eight, on Saturday night, twelve o'clock: I should not specify the day so particularly, but the most remarkable incidents of my life (however strange it may appear) have shewn themselves on that day. At the early age of twenty months, I was sent to school, when having heard little else but the French language, I understood no other: and though early enough attaining

taining speech, I could not in English make known my desires: however, being tutored by my young friends in this feminary, I was soon taught the knowledge of letters, and notwithstanding the loss of my mother, and the lapse of six months dangerous illness, was, by the attention of my father, in teaching me his native tongue, and the progress made under my tutress, enabled to read in the testament, in both languages, at five years of age: and before the sixth year was admitted into the first class of readers, under the most rigid tuition that was, I believe, ever exercised over children. I should have observed, that on the death of my mother, my great grandmother being in England, and who from the early marriages of the family in the female line was

some years under sixty, when I was born assisted for a time in the care of me, and whose over indulgence was such a contrast to the natural austerity of my father; that after one, or two years, she unwillingly yielded up her province; knowing thereby, I must endure many hardships; as where infant children are left to servants, or other interested persons, their sufferings, by dread experience, I well know are better felt than described: as those unfortunate females in tender age, thus circumstanced, I fear are daily too sensible of.

The time which intervened between the period last recited and my father's second marriage, being the space of about two years, I met with several bad accidents of body, which were but an earnest of what must follow,

follow, in the course of a life so replete with incidents; but as they have no affinity to the succeeding part of this history, I shall pass them over, and only mention, before I come to the material part, that I was much respected by a young lady of large fortune; who, although she was four years farther advanced in life, was so partial to me as to solicit my company often when our two fathers, (for she too was motherless) thought fit to take us out in Mr. H——s chaise and pair, which being made in the fashionable stile of that day, afforded accommodation for the two only daughters: this intercourse being ended for a time, by my father's entering into a new connection, was one of the most fatal strokes I could experience; as it was the only essential pleasure I could
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apply at so early an age, and imprinted on my memory, so serious a recollection of the matter, that I even at this instant, have not lost the poignancy of so serious a disappointment.

But I must not (disagreeable as it may be) omit to discover the new stab, received to my rising hope, by my father's return from hymens altar with his second wife; both young, and handsome; only twenty three years of age; whose company he had only frequented about fifteen days, and who, notwithstanding she had, in her family connections many people of the first consequence in the silk trade, and received a proper education as an introduction into the most respectable line of life, had so far forsaken the path of virtue, as to bring a lasting disgrace on herself and family,

family, and to have discovered to the world, a pledge of false love and abandoned chastity: judge, my pathetic friends, I intreat you, of my farther misfortune, with that candor and tenderness which is consistent where an uninterrupted share of happiness prevails, when I was just budding into discernment: when every faculty was keenly edged for imbibing the most attractive sensations, and when the greatest care was required to initiate me into the path of virtue! think attentively, what an imprudent step my father had taken, and that, after so precipitate a marriage as he had before entered into. But such, I believe, is the artifice of women, who have lost that delicacy of sentiment, which is attendant on the prudent part of the sex; that they display a kind of delusion to

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ensnare, which is totally strange to those, whose adherence to morality banishes the idea of impurity, in the true sense of the word.

So much may be said, 'tis certain, that my father was kept in the dark by the friends of the object of his sudden affection, respecting her conduct, that by her outward appearance alone, he was captivated; and, I must confess, she was really a fine woman, both as to person, and an agreeable symmetry of features; and likewise had a pleasing voice, and a taste for music. Strange, indeed it is, that where beauty is concerned, the only incentive to happiness should be neglected that can promote domestic felicity between the contracted parties; and that rectitude of conduct should be omitted, which animates the soul, to acts of generosity and benevolence,

benevolence, which alone constitutes social intercourse, and should be a leading characteristic in the choice of a partner for life.

Nothing, however, was wanting in dress or accommodation on the part of my step-mother's friends to the embellishment of her person, which really did not require that extraordinary expence, as she sufficiently attracted the attention of many people, who shewed her the respect due to my father's wife; but on his speaking of her, as a fine woman, to a person who did not know that he had then made her his wife, he accidentally made the discovery of her bad conduct when she was Miss T—, for that was her name; at such an allegation against so near a connexion, judge what must be the consequence, a thunder bolt in winter was not a greater

greater contrast, then the operations of the different passions in her husband's breast, which rendered in full tale that evil in substance, which he had before encouraged in shadow only. I need not, I am persuaded, describe such a character more fully than in relating the expedition she used in accepting the proposals of a stranger, in the course of a few days, without making the least enquiry into his morals or credit; so ready is vice to obtain a veil, even at the expence of every thing that is sacred, and which is too often a growing evil after the first enlargement into sin.

This proved inevitably to be the case, in this strange story, for no sooner was my unfortunate parent thus deluded, then as in course must be

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expected, confidence was betrayed, and that in so artful and collusive a manner, through the assistance of an intriguing servant, that every scheme, which the meanest artifice could devise, was agitated to destroy the reputation of the house: and that in so great a degree, that it was converted to the entertaining a licentious gallant, whose visits were much too frequent in the absence of the master of the house, (who on account of business was often from home, and that too in the country) and what greatly augmented the crime of this wicked man, was, his being married to a sensible and virtuous woman, to whom he chiefly owed his indulgences and luxury, as she had a good fortune; surely this was the most flagrant of all crimes, adultery in the extreme: with all its

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aggravating circumstances, in an intercourse so heinous in the sight of god and man, and what was remarkable, this depraved man's being much inferior in person and appearance to my father; who was very tall and fair, and till excess made him otherwise a man of good appearance: though I am sorry to say, was not of a temper, by any means adequate to the entercountering such complicated misfortunes, as his imprudent and rash conduct had deluded him into.

As I do not mean to satiate with a continuation of one subject, I shall endeavour to introduce some matters of amusement, which occurred in the course of my childhood, which though they may not be interesting, may at least vary the attention; before

fore I finish the copious matter I have but begun. By the interference of friends, some palliatives were at times admitted, by way of delusion on the part of my mother's family; by forming parties of pleasure, in which I generally partook at their request; one of which, I well remember, was going to see my father's manufactory at Kingston upon Thames, and in return, viewing the palace and gardens of Hampton Court, as likewise the labyrinth, which I have since thought was certainly emblematic, of my future fortune, as such, this world has truly been to me, in the extreme, and essentially I want now as much a guide to bring me to the centre, even while I am giving this narrative, as at any former period of my life.

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The next matter of entertainment I recollect, was, that of a very elegant wedding supper; (the bride being a first cousin to my mother) where joy, festivity, and mirth, with an excellent band of music, and a ball, were ushered to the company which consisted of near one hundred people; to me it was a very novel scene, and the respect shewn me in every part of that agreeable connection from home has ever since imprinted on my mind, that gratitude, which I think justly due to such unlimited civility. But I must not omit remarking, that on our return home at about three o'clock the next morning (it being the winter of the year 1745, in the height of the rebellion) we had the coach twice searched by the city train bands (for fire arms as they said) those sturdy defenders of the lives and properties
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of his Majesties liege subjects who with their swords drawn, refused a passage through the city gates to every one whom they surmised in their cups to be disaffected to government. It is certainly a happy presage to this country, that in this enlightened age, the hearts of the citizens; with their voluntary efforts towards the regulation and protection of this opulent place, is a much stronger barrier than the temporary defence of brick, and mortar; or the glittering sabre in the hands of the few debilitated knight errants.

I cannot, at the same time avoid remarking, the impressions I felt on my ideas, (though at so early an age) at seeing the two unfortunate gentlemen who betrayed their country, and paid for so doing with their lives on Tower-hill: the remembrance of their de-
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jected countenances, in prison the day before their execution; has been ratified to my own feelings, by the persecution I have laboured under, by a similitude of situation; by confinement brought on me, by those whose characters I must delineate in due course, and who long kept me in distance with a design to depreciate me in the esteem of my friend; but wherein, thank kind providence, they have not succeeded.

Conformable to the outlines in the index, I mean to notice the little attention paid to my morals and education, while under the care of my step-mother, my being already sufficiently versed in reading to obviate the necessity of much tutoring; in that respect, I was at her request taken from school under a promise of her qualifying me in the use of the needle, in which I was no great proficient

sufficient, the most useful part in that way having been omitted, and omitted still it was; as in lieu of the promised tuition I was only ordered to read in private the proper psalms, for each day, in both languages, in which I had been taught, and in contrast, plays in abundance, and the most indelicate novels were open to my inspection, and constantly read aloud in my hearing to the intriguing servant,—whose desires for such information, fully co-operated with the inclinations of her mistress; but I am happy to say, that through the protection of Providence, I found no gratification under such polluted examples; and notwithstanding, I had perused more plays before the age of ten years than I have ever since, I did not find myself, by any means, eager

in the pursuit, when I was deprived of the farther opportunity, by the separation of my father and mother. —The story of George Barnwell, though, by no means appropriated to the attention of those who dedicate their time to licentious habits,—yet furnished a part of the library of our family; and I must confess, took such a solid seat in my memory, by the frequent revival of it, as not even, at this time, to be eradicated from it——and in course, has been refreshed to my ideas by seeing it several times performed since maturity; and indeed, I think it a very proper lesson to youth in general.

Three years passed in this adverse propagation of reverting scenes, when my mother's sister, being an accomplished woman, and disposed to

to pursue the path of virtue, and a direct contrast to her sister, was, by some warm friends prevailed on to adopt the education of young females, and to whom my father consented I should be sent; at the same time, giving me the most proper caution, I ever remember to have had from him, respecting the morality of my conduct, and the attention necessary to my learning, for the remaining part of my time, allotted for that purpose. I cannot help remarking this, as the most seasonable relief to my ambitious desires I ever met with, and which were as fully gratified by the peculiar attention paid me by my tutoresses, who sufficiently reprobated the vice and folly of her sister; who she well knew, had not only abridged me in the needful part of my education,

but likewise had kept back from me the necessary allowance of food, which nature required,—and not only from me, but the rest of the family under her care; which subjected the house so far to the censure of the working domestics, as to urge them to call on their master in a legal manner, which his reputation in life prevented the belief of: nor did he intend, that should be the case, well knowing the requisites in that way, but it really amounted to a certainty, that the means allotted for those proper purposes, were appropriated to the entertainment of that wretch, whose enormities in vice constituted the chief part of his character.

CHAP. IV.

A Vindication of my father's conduct being absolutely necessary, to establish a reason, substantial enough for his demanding a separation from his wife, I find myself under the disagreeable predicament of returning again to that part of my misfortunes, which truly laid the foundation of the succeeding ills, that have so closely followed me. The intercourse between my step-mother and the infamous wretch, who fostered her vicious inclinations, being continued in masquerade, was at times suspected, by her misled husband ; as passion, irritated by

jealousy, at several different times, caused a temporary discontent, when having parents living, who, I am fearful gave countenance to her amours, she as occasion required, would frequently return to them; till by a mitigation of friends, she was again led back to her legal situation. In this unhappy state, did things proceed for near four years, when by the advice of some friendly neighbours, whose compassion led them to urge a discovery of such heinous proceedings, by intimating to him the fatal consequence of his passiveness, they proposed that my father should make a feigned attempt to leave the town, for a few days, where business always demanded attention, at that season of the year; and by returning, at a more early period than usual, to gain a knowledge of that

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illicit transaction, which had proved such a barrier to the felicity sought in the conjugal state. This plan succeeding to the extent of every wish, made a disclosure of a scene too dark for investigation, consistent with that delicacy which I promised to adhere to, but which, may easily be construed by the consequences which followed; but were attended with such a variety of perplexed circumstances, as I firmly believe, would rouse the sensation of every family who wish to realize temporal happiness.

My father, who was certainly of a most choleric temper, was however duly guarded in this trying moment of disappointed hope, not to put his wife out of his house, but to wreak his vengeance on the deserved object of his resentment, which he

did, by only putting him out of doors: his lover soon after testified her regard, by immediately following him, and it being then too late at night, no farther steps could possibly be taken, and the law next took its course, to prevent which, nothing was omitted, by my step-mother's parents, for no one else, but reprobated her conduct, in the most eminent degree. The first matter on their part, was to apply to a linen-draper, for a needful (as they then stated it) supply of that article, and to cause the unsuspecting husband, (in that particular) to be arrested, for the amount; and however disagreeable it might then appear, it is to be observed, that abstracted transaction was the cause of bringing things to a more speedy issue.

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Common and civil processes, operated in conjunction with each other, to disturb the family peace, and deprive an injured individual of that property which by his first marriage, and great industry, had furnished my father with a competency to carry on his trade, to his wishes.— However, in the latitude that was now given, he must yield to the consequences, which were thought truly alarming, and attended with as many aggravating circumstances, as could follow each other. The evidence of the intriguing servant being now required, and equity but seldom the motive in a heart fraught with vice, yet most times truth will shew itself, as may be pointed out in the following extraordinary occurrence, which likewise attended her in the marriage line, and com-

pelled her unwillingly to throw a proper eclaircissement on this dark business ; and however insignificant it may appear, I think it proper to discover, how properly the fates retaliated on her, as it tends to shew the instability of human nature.— This base woman, (whose guilt reproached her) when her mistress was detected, knowing her crime would be more fully exemplified, by leaving her master, determined therefore to continue with him, and wait the event of the trial, which must in course be brought forward in a few months ; but in the interim, (as speedy matches were, in some cases, useful) she was fully fixed in her mind, to accept the first offer, which soon being proposed, by a man newly returned from sea, she after three days, consented to go to church on
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the occasion; and I am led to believe, thought in that way, to have avoided an examination in a court of justice, respecting her mistress's conduct.

But how strangely time produces events in the cause of oppression, must be unravelled in this extraordinary assertion; but three weeks being elapsed before a demand was made of the bridegroom, by a former wife, who had till then supposed herself sole mistress of her husband's heart; but finding the contrary so amply specified, immediately applied for the interference of justice in her behalf; when the man being immediately committed for trial, left the object of her false love, to lament the imprudence of her rash conduct: and what more sensibly affected her was, that she

had no chance of protection, but from her much-injured master rendering her the assistance needful, to extricate her from so disagreeable a predicament. The assizes approaching for the county of Surry, the necessary steps were taken, and the man indicted; when, by her master shewing himself in vindication of her character, (as she had lived several years with him,) she was discharged; and the husband left to suffer the punishment usually inflicted for bigamy; in due course of law, the affair ended much to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

The above transaction bearing with it so just a resemblance of my father's case, determined the servant, (who before, at all risques, would have taken part with her mistress) to declare a true state of facts, which

which, though they led to discover a most iniquitous intrigue, yet appeared, so contrary to the expectations of the offending party, (while it stigmatized her with truth) in making a true declaration of the matter apparently against her own interest, that she really was, after all, married much to her advantage.

My father, having now obtained a verdict against the linen-draper, at whose suit he had been served with an action, which I before noticed, endeavoured more strenuously to obtain a separation, by divorce, or any other way, that could be pointed out in law; a separation by consent was recommended, but barred immediately by my mother, and her parents, extremities in course, took place: public advertisements, and a demand before witness by my father,
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of his wife, were needful, (though disagreeable ceremonies) and were accordingly complied with; but productive of many evil altercations; and as in all similar cases, two parties are formed, for and against the delinquent, it is easy to judge the situation, the honest party must stand in, as being liable to the censure or approbation of every one who thought fit to scrutinize into the conduct of either individual. A repetition of aggravating matter was constantly issuing from the Commons in civil law, till in four different courts, my father's name was made public by his wife, in order obtain a separate maintenance; she, however, had taken the wrong steps to obtain the same, as leaving her husband's house, was losing that chance irredeemably; but what I find most offensive

fenfitive to relate is, that I had the mortification of hearing, in my own parish church, the abominable ceremony of excommunication againft my own father. It is much to be lamented, that in this country, (admir'd for the mildnefs of its laws) fuch awful fteps cannot be avoided, and that an additional punifhment fhould follow that which firft enforced a requifition of juftice.

I need not, I dare fay, describe the procraftination attending fuits of fuch a difagreeable nature; and it muft be fuppos'd great expence would follow, fo great indeed, that it was by many people apprehended, it might terminate in my father's total ruin; to confirm which, many years after his death, I found a letter from a friend, addreffed to him on the fubject, advifing him in the moft cordial manner, to leave the coun-

country, before the matter was decided; but that honesty of principle which ever influenced his conduct in trade, over-ruled every pusillanimous idea, not chusing to let his legal creditors sustain any injury, it was in his power to prevent; and indeed, he was happily successful, as notwithstanding every effort, which could be used to depreciate him in the esteem of the world, justice took place in his favour, so far as to prevent his allowing any stipend to his imprudent wife; which, had it been admitted under such aggravating circumstances, must have been deemed a singular hardship; and indeed, the concurring evils attending the suit, and the restraint from making a future connexion, considered only at the age of forty years, and the perplexing reflections which must ever be uppermost in his mind, were, in my
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humble opinion, an adequate punishment to any man, however precipitately he might before have erred.— Though, I am ready to suppose, my readers in general will admit of such restraint as no unreasonable punishment, where too rash contracts had been already entered into, yet few we see at any age, who do not wish to be gratified, so far as not to have a final barrier to their future conceptions in that way, although prudence may and ought indeed fully to direct, after such ample experience; but still it is proper to yield to the most charitable sensations, considering the instability of our passions; I therefore trust, that some little allowance may be admitted, even where choice has given way to reason.

C H A P. V.

IT becomes me now, to return to my own adventures, which ended in the preceding account, with my being at school near town, with my aunt, (by marriage) whose character I before described, by the compassion shewn me in time of need, and her attention to my education ; as I had therein suffered greatly, by being three years deprived of the opportunity of making any improvement, but must do my tutoreſs this farther juſtice, that ſeeing my ambition to recover loſt time, ſhe did not confine her care of me to the uſual hours, but has frequently, as I was by nature an early riſer, indulged me in leaving her bed at five o'clock on ſummer mornings, to give me a leſſon or two extraordinary in grammar, or works ; having,

ing, as before observed, been very early taught to read. But as my adverse stars had always for me some hard presage in embryo, so now it proved, for on the difference appearing between my father and his young wife, I could not with propriety, be left with any part of the family, and I was in a moment, most disagreeably surprized, by receiving orders to go immediately to town, to a friend's house; as in the confusion of affairs, at a little more than ten years, it was very improper I should be at home. The reception I met where I was taken, being to my godfather's, a man of eminence in the silk trade was truly pleasing, considering the contrast between the master and mistress of the family, who, although they had an ample fortune for their
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three daughters, displayed but little generosity, except to the medical professors, who reaped a plentiful harvest in the house, owing to the diseases introduced by the penury of my godfather's wife, who retaining the reins of government, in her own hands, sacrificed that to the hands of Galen, which would have amply repaid her, in adding to her reputation as the wife of a man of the most liberal disposition. Strange it is, that human nature should be so depraved, as to yield that to the mammon of avarice in obscurity, which if appropriated to the purpose of a proper support to the credit which ought to regulate each person's conduct, agreeably to what Providence has so amply dispensed, would enable them to gain the esteem

teem of the impartial and discerning part of mankind.

I cannot omit declaring, by what means I was more particularly favoured by the eldest daughter of this remarkable pair, and how strangely it seemed, I was ever to be in the way of intrigue; but as this only related to a virtuous intercourse with a surgeon, who was truly a man of merit, though not rich, I may, without a blush, acknowledge myself the daily Mercury to hand letters between the parties, who were already contracted in sentiment, and only waiting the event of the avaricious old lady's determination, in point of fortune, which her unwillingness to determine on, urged the young couple to face the world in the marriage state, without her contribution towards their endeavours,

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and which she certainly withheld, till time and nature put an end to her existence, and which was, it is likely, much sooner accomplished by the pusillanimity of her disposition, barring the needful assistance required in her weak state of infirmity, and which in her husband's life, she had involuntarily been obliged to accede to; the young couple were, however, very prosperous, and lived happy many years together, and were the parents of many children, one of whom, with his mother, is still living, a very accomplished man.

A new tutorefs was, after a time, appointed for me; but being a French refugee, and low in finance, I had not the indulgence I met with at Bromley, where I shall never eradicate from my memory the dreadful hour of our parting, nor ever lose
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the sense of that gratitude I owe to my most essential benefactress.

A few weeks, presently to my seeming satisfaction, soon again opened to me a new scene, as I took the infection of the small-pox, and for the protection of my companions from so loathsome a distemper, I was under the necessity of removing to my father's house; and I must say, that at that time I owed much to his care and attention, and suppose from his being then immersed in law, he looked forward to some consolation in me. Youth, and a good constitution soon, however, restored me to health, and my growth increasing much, I soon had the appearance of a farther advancement in life; but till the flagrant evil in the family was in some degree settled, I could not with satisfaction be sent from town: and some months passed before

fore I was sent again for improvement. But a seminary being at hand, where most of the daughters of the people of repute were sent, I was at last permitted to make one of the number, which in some measure again relieved me, in the expectation of once more resuming my learning, in which pursuit I had really met so many disappointments, that I was almost yielding to despair in the business, which so materially concerned my future hope. I found myself in this new situation, much more comfortable than I expected; the tutoreesses being two maiden sisters, much advanced in life, with great repute, and their assistants had many years exhibited in their profession with great success: and as they found me susceptible, particularly in the use of the needle,

in various works, wherein I was thought to excel, I was likewise much pleased with the progress I expected to make in the use of the pen, under one of the best masters in that art, I ever yet have seen; but my father, thinking he gave too much latitude on the red letter days, and my having lost too much time, already to neglect any farther opportunities; but in that he certainly erred greatly, as by so often changing masters, it prevented my writing so fine a hand as I might have attained otherwise, particularly, as the person provided to fill up my vacant hours at home, was by no means equal to the one I had at school. The person who continued the care of the family, during the contention in law, as soon as it came to a decision, which ended in

favour of her injured master, did not chuse any longer to continue the situation, as the odium could not be totally eradicated; in consequence of which, she left him unprovided; and for a proper person as a substitute, he applied to a friend, who, I was ready to imagine, was in conjunction with the fates, to confirm the succession of ills, which perpetually attended me; for in that particular, I think my evil genius operated to his wishes, as will be testified in the succeeding part of my adventures.

As among my partners, in this place of improvement, in the neighbourhood, were a great variety of dispositions, it may not be improper to notice those which most attracted my attention: one whose name was Butler, I think, possessed beauty of
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face and person sufficient to allure the sensations of a stoic, to which was added, that delicacy of sentiment and pureness of heart, which almost constituted her the emblem of perfection; the possession of a large fortune raised in her no ill-placed ambition, and the loss of a great part of it, by the earthquake at Lisbon, brought from her no reflections, as she was equally disposed to submit to every dispensation of Providence, with that chearfulness so consonant with her angelic mind.—

The choice of a partner for life, was the peculiar attention of her mother and uncle, (for she had no father) when after several years, a merchant in the city, of great eminence, although a widower, with four children, was thought worthy to make happy this deserving young

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lady ; but alas, how was this fortunate gentleman (sanguine as he was) disappointed ! when at the end of the first year this object of his purest hope was wrested from him, by the cold hand of death ! leaving behind her but one emblem of herself, in the person of a sweet little daughter ; who, with her lamenting father, must have felt the most poignant sensations on the recollection of so amiable a wife and mother. I naturally found much pleasure in the conversation of this dear girl, for our age corresponded nearly ; but as the want of a mother made me, in some respects, deficient in the etiquette of dress and appearance, I could perceive some, (who by enjoying that blessing I was deprived of,) very backward in treating me with that degree of respect to which
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I thought myself entitled; but as time, and events have had their different operations with them, as with myself, I doubt not but a far different decision is now given to common occurrences by us all, in the course of more than thirty years.

During the two years, I continued in this place of progress, no very material occurrence arose, but the earthquake, (which happened on the eighth of February and March, in the year 1750,) I well remember those events to have made a very sensible shock on my tender imagination, from the general apprehension of their being followed by one still more tremendous; the heat succeeding, was excessive, as I well knew by riding on horseback to Kingston one day, early in the spring, when by immediately drinking some cold wine

and water, I thereby met with such a sudden chill in my blood, as to get a surfeit, which very soon shewed itself, and was several years before it was eradicated. I should not omit to mention, that in going to the above place, near about the same time, we dined at Brentford, with a Mr. Harveſt, in that town, who took much pleaſure in collecting medals, one of which was remarkably curious, and notwithstanding I have ſeen the moſt valuable that have been exhibited in public ſince, I have not met one which bore any reſemblance to it: it was Spaniſh, ſomething larger than a dollar; had a fine engraving on the exterior ſides, and throwing it down with ſufficient violence, it opened, and diſcovered a moſt exquisite painting, of our Saviour, at the laſt ſupper, with
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the apostles; and in the other side, a piece of profane history, which has slipped my memory; nor do I know who was afterwards in possession of it, as he died suddenly. In another jaunt to Kingston, I cannot forget, my father meeting some friends on the road, in whose company was a Mr. P——d, well-known many years on the turf, and who was then going to Epsom races, and vauntingly exhibited a purse, containing several hundred guineas, which he acknowledged were for the sole purpose of betting on the course. Notwithstanding my nonage, I cannot forget the uneasy sensibility of my mind, on the occasion, being fully informed, from the accident which had impeded my present hope, how necessary I thought it to apply such sums to a more proper use. The next ex-

curfion to Kingfton, was fufficiently ferious, when by the mifmanagement of a fervant, in affifting me to mount the horfe, I met with a bad fall, in which I diflocated a bone in my left hand, which, not being properly attended to, was never replaced, and owing to which misfortune, I was fpoiled for a horfewoman, was five years very lame, and have never yet recovered the ftrength of the wrift, which is now much worfe, from a violent contufion in the fhoulder of the fame arm, by which I am almoft deprived of rendering myfelf needful affiftance.

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

THE July following the earthquake, the most violent storm of hail fell in the parishes of St. Olave, St. John, and St. Mary Magdalen, on the Surry side, (in the last of which was my father's residence) that was, I believe, ever known, in the memory of the oldest man then living, as some of the pieces of ice (for such they were) in a variety of forms, measured some hours after they were down, several inches in circumference, I should not have noticed it so much, but that the weather being so uncommonly hot, our school windows had

been taken quite out, to admit a sufficient circulation of air, when, by that unfortunate circumstance, being many in number, we could scarcely be protected from being wounded, the hail-stones beating in from all quarters, among us; and I well knew, a neighbour who had not time to reach his house, from the yard wherein he stood, before he had a vein opened, as with a lancet, by one of those remarkable stones, performing the operation as it fell on the back of his hand, whence the blood issued, as from the incision made by a surgeon.

As I had now been enabled to give tolerable attention to my learning, I gained the approbation of my tutors; in a singular degree; and on a visit made them by Lord Coote and Lady Mary, his sister, (of the family of
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the Earls of Bellamont, one of whom had married the daughter and heiress of a wealthy woolstapler, in the boroughwick of the name of Wilkinfon ; and in consequence, inherited some estates in that quarter) to whom we were all presented ; and his Lordship truly paid us very great respect, by passing many encomiums, and entertaining us quite to our wishes, in the confectionary way ; and as the most compleat work-women were honoured in a particular manner, I had the good fortune to share in his esteem, with those, who had made an equal progress ; a few months more elapsing, brought me into my thirteenth year, when it was thought adviseable for me to be placed farther from home, especially, as the person to whose care I was intrusted, in my father's house, gave

a very improper example to youth, particularly of the female sex, as she had already made me a compleat Arminian, having been by the head pastor of that society, admitted as a member. I trust by this not to be thought an enemy to religion in general, but I shall ever think it very improper for a young woman; (or at least one who from extraordinary growth, had that appearance) to be exposed by a servant, out of her father's house, at either five o'clock in the morning, or eight in the evening; and that contrary to the express command of her master; but such, notwithstanding, was the rules I was obliged to adhere to; and her influence prevailing to an astonishing degree, there was not a shadow, of probability as to redress on my part.

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My father professing to be a French calvinist, with whom I occasionally attended divine worship; my young friends, with whom I principally associated, being dissenters, of different denominations, and myself a member of the church established in this country; it will be easy to suggest what a confusion, of reversed ideas must have possessed my mind, in religious matters, in such an untutored imagination; I scarcely knew under what persuasion to seek that supreme direction I so much needed, till by going to a proper place at Wandsworth, to finish my education, I was kept to the established church, in the French language, in the morning; but lest we should prefer an English place of worship, we were but seldom permitted to go to the parish church, but obligated to hear
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from our elder tutoress, (those being likewise two maiden sisters) one of Doctor Tillotson's excellent sermons, in the afternoons, on Sundays. I omitted to mention that on my father's entertaining me with a sight of Westminster Abbey, I was enabled (from the observations I had made by reading, and seeing pictures,) to give an account of almost every remarkable tomb in that solemn and noble repository of the dead; and notwithstanding his little attention to studies of that sort, he expressed great satisfaction at the progress I had made, being then under thirteen years of age.

Having no mother, it was thought unnecessary for me to be at home more than once in the year, at the vacation; and as Christmas was the time when there was most amusement

ment in town, I was only permitted the first Whitsuntide, to take a few day's pleasure, by going to Woking, in Surry; where, for the advantage of a more powerful stream of water, my father had removed his manufactory. The travelling in those heavy vehicles then in use, (in the year 1752,) was to me very strange; and what made it much more so, was, by being the youngest passenger, I was in course placed with my back to the horses, which to me, as many others, proved a very disagreeable situation; and of the company on the opposite side, each declared they were alike subject to indisposition, should they yield to my request. The pleasure I had ruminated on, by my expectation of seeing Guildford races, I perceived would be a dear purchase, as this journey

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was not to be compleated till fix o'clock in the evening, notwithstanding I had several miles to go on horseback. It is needless to repeat to those who lived in that day, the inconvenience attending stage travelling; and the appearance of a heavy coach, loaded with chains at bottom, and drawn by six stout horses, with a postillion in a leather jacket, and that to make a long day's journey of only thirty miles; and I doubt not will appear as strange, to my young readers, as an air balloon to those whose maturity might have led them to make a more eligible comparifon.

The next day, I was taken to see races, on Merrow Down, near Guildford; where, I cannot say, I was enchanted to my wishes, being naturally fond of the brute creation,

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I was not at any rate pleased with the severity which I see used to the fine animals, who seemed equally desirous of victory with their riders; but could not exceed that strength which was given them for discretionary use, and not intended to be the sport of every unthinking mortal, who might be disposed to stake their fortunes upon the stride of a horse, which, like man, whose breath being in his nostrils, are in a moment, liable to lose their lives, which, to my knowledge, has sometimes been the case, as I am able to testify, having, with company, been frequently induced to partake of that amusement. Pity it is, that mankind should, under such uncertainties, risque the property of their ancestors, which was, perhaps, earned with the brow of care, or may as likely

likely have been saved, from a scrupulous desire to hand enlarged to posterity, that paternal inheritance which, perhaps, under the auspices of a generous heir, (divested of vice) would have rendered a hundred fold, in the true sense of the word, by hospitably feeding the hungry, cloathing the naked, and other acts of benevolence; but which, from polluted and contracted ideas, has been only augmented, for the unknown purpose of making a sporting youth, while in possession of plenty, the ostensible idol of the gentle swindlers of the turf.

But to return to Wandsworth, we again entered the moving castle, before described, with all the pomp of knight-errantry, where, as before, I was placed the contrary way for my feelings, but from the politeness

ness of my new companions in travel, I was much better accommodated, on seeing the necessity a lady in middle age, who had been acquainted with Miss Blandy, the horrid parricide of that year, two younger, and two gentlemen, were of the company, all of whom were truly polite, and spoke the sentiments of humanity, replete with instruction to young minds. We dined at Kingston, and the coach stopping at Wandsworth, at tea time, I found myself again placed under the care of my tutoresses, after receiving in the short space of four days, as much information as I could possibly expect. I was, at all times, most pathetically received in my settled situation, where, by officiating as secretary to the ancient sisters, under whose care I, occasionally, was
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favoured with a glass of wine, or a cup of tea extraordinary, in the dressing-room; but this entertainment favouring of partiality, to some who were not so fond of the pen, it sometimes was productive of trifling sparks of envy towards me; but, I could even then avail myself, by refusing to correct their letters, before they were handed to their superiors. I cannot help acknowledging the particular obligations due on my part to the master, who instructed me in writing and arithmetic; the latter of which (knowing I was intended for the accompting-house,) he more particularly attended to, and ceased not during the whole time to give me every information in his power, and whose methods in practice I have ever adopted, during the last year of my education, being the
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fifteenth of my age. I was partly left to my own amusement, and was consulted more by my tutoreſſes, where the needle and pen were concerned, than even their aſſiſtants. The time being now accompliſhed, for the concluſion of the arduous task, I had ſo cloſely attended to, I was ordered home; though in tears, I really parted with many of my companions, and my ſenior tutoreſſes very gratefully confeſſed, (to uſe her own words) that ſhe could inſtruct me no further, and that in me ſhe loſt her right hand.

It may be required that as I here finiſhed my education, I ſhould be capable of giving ſome account of my foſtered ſiſters, with whom I ſpent my time; two of which were ſiſters, but much contraſted in their per-

person and disposition; the eldest being very agreeable in appearance, and possessed a great share of genuine sense and goodness of heart, the youngest as beautiful as Venus, but a votary to pride, and passion; they were announced, as Creoles whose friends, had died in their passage to this country; and were supposed to be the nieces of the gentleman, who very punctually paid their expences: but what appeared the most singular, was their never being permitted to go to the house of their supposed relation; and it was his express command, that they should by no means be instructed in the use of the pen; which he argued might prevent their entering into intrigue; (he had his reason no doubt as will hereafter appear); however his decree, could not fix a barrier to their inclinations,

(which were more strongly urged by restraint) for among so great a number, they found it no difficult matter, to be sufficiently taught to write him a letter on the subject; on the receipt of which, finding them so far enabled, he permitted them to be put under the care of the master, who attended for that purpose and rewarded them for their ingenuity, with a very distinguished present: on some uneasy reflections taking place, in a severe fit of sickness, he at last unwillingly declared them to be his own daughters: by the person who had many years had the care of his house, as he was left a widower in early age; and was without legitimate children; pity it is that gentlemen under an idea of degrading themselves in marriage, yield to an unlawful passion, with the very
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people who have used every art to seduce their morals, and thereby bring on themselves an uneasy remorse, which neither time or recollection can palliate; and by committing such rash crimes, bring a lasting reflection, which can never be totally eradicated, either in them or their posterity. The father, of those ladies lived in Westminster; and at his death, left them ten thousand pounds (only), in which I cannot think, he rendered them strict justice; as he, at the same time, left Lord Romney twenty thousand, (and likewise the care of his two amiable daughters) which, unless he was under particular obligations to his Lordship, was rather looked on as an infringement on their right, after his acknowledgment of them; our residence being
far

far apart, I have not had the pleasure of seeing those agreeable friends for many years past.

The next whose character I mean to delineate, I notice, more to caution parents and guardians against improperly disposing of their female friends, in youth, than for any pleasure it can afford to either party, in the recital. Lucinda, (for by that appellation I shall relate her story) who was to possess a fortune of thirty thousand pounds, was introduced among us, by the present Lady Twisden, (relict of Sir William Twisden, Baronet, and daughter of a gentleman of great eminence in the leather trade, but long since in retirement,) who had been placed many years in obscurity, by her appointed guardians, till the time arrived which enabled her to make a

fresh choice; when it was too late discovered, to what a bad purpose forty pounds per annum had been paid, as it was, to her great mortification, 'by us soon seen, that she had not received instruction sufficient to read a single verse in the Testament, without hesitation, and was handed among strangers even without stays, and in a night-cap, without border, and so incapable of using a needle, that she could by no means adjust herself in needful apparel. I could not avoid taking part with my new companion, (whose hard fate I sincerely lamented, having not lost sight of my own misfortunes in that way) for, though she was not possess of the most shining abilities, it seemed possible by cultivation, to make her agreeable, as she did not want that becoming

diffidence, which, properly attended to, will ever remain a pleasing characteristic in a virtuous woman: she had a genteel person; and in the course of one year, made considerable improvement; notwithstanding pity and contempt, from the various dispositions she was among, had their operations in turn, which, indeed, was no disadvantage to an uncultivated mind, as it tended to rouse her sensations, and endeavour, by retorting in a spirited manner, to awaken her from that lethargy in which she had been lulled, to an almost state of insensibility: her friends, who had now distinguished themselves, were long obliged to contend in Chancery, with her original guardians, to oblige them to replace her fortune. As for the extraordinary expences of her education,

tion, I was informed they charged to account near two hundred pounds yearly. I mean only by this narrative, to enforce the necessity there appears to be, for the kindred friends of orphans, to turn their attention towards their education, as the first principle of their duty, and particularly, to look into the annual disbursements in minority; as I well know my friend Lucinda was greatly hurt in every respect, wanting that care; and, notwithstanding every effort she was mistress of, could not attain that perfect knowledge, after the age she entered at, that she could have done before; youth being certainly the time, when the intellects are most easily impressed, than in a nearer approach to maturity. This lady, however, was well-advised in the choice of a husband, with whom

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she has lived many years happily ;
and I believe, has still some family,
although I am sensible she had the
misfortune to lose several beautiful
children, and has ever lived in a
style of life, suited to her ample
fortune.

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CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

I SHOULD, indeed, as consistent with propriety, have first noticed my friend, who went with me to this last place of learning, and under the auspices of her dear mother, I enjoyed much pleasure, in partaking of many amusements on the water, &c. in summer, by way of a little occasional recreation, which relaxing the mind, by alternately changing the scene, gave a fresh edge to the inclination, in our different pursuits; no singularity of fate, or sentiment, in my most warm friend, so particularly demand my attention, as her being in all respects much indulged,
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she was just directed by her own passions : to any particular aim ; but was much more a proficient, in the arts of the needle, than the pen ; but was from neither one nor the other motive, excited to a pre-eminence in any particular : and being assured, that she was ever right, in all she did, she left school without any partial attachment to excel in any thing ; as we both went and returned together, on the Wandsworth business, the most friendly intercourse succeeded ; and to her friendship and that of her family I vowed many favours which I was flatly denied at home, through the influence of my father's new and ill chosen connections at some intervals a coolness, from a variety of circumstances, has at times subsisted but as the attachment at heart has been firmly established, the same

cordiality still subsists; and to that lady I owe the copies of some interesting papers she had preserved of my early exhibitions in the literary way, which will in due course be specified, she was as myself, left early without a mother, but her father making a more prudent choice than mine, has given her much the advantage; though she in obedience to her good parents, (who justly deserved that appellation) made rather an unfortunate connection in marriage, and was left a widow at the early age of twenty five years, with two sweet children, which are now in maturity, and by the care and generosity of her friends, she now enjoys a plentiful fortune.

The two infant daughters of Sir Harry Parker, Baronet, much deserve my attention; the eldest being
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only seven years of age, and the youngest four; the first of which was fully accomplished, in reading, writing, dancing, and needle work; and I cannot help observing, that at her first entering the school she apologized, to her governess in behalf of her sister, who was only able to read in her Testament, whereas she herself had been through her bible, and said the Catechism in the church, at four; and however strange this may appear, it is really a solid truth. We had many years the opportunity of hearing of each other, through the intercourse we had by a relation of the above ladies; but as she is since dead, some years have passed without our knowledge of each other; and I am sorry to say, that in her marriage with an Hibernian officer, notwithstanding the immense

fortune left her by her grandfather (who was a callico printer, of the first eminence) she, no more than myself, found much satisfaction in our sacrifices at the altar of Hymen.

I shall next remark the daughter of a deceased Doctor Cunningham, (whose widow married too soon to be remarked for her prudence) to a young Scotch gentleman, very handsome, and sufficiently gay, (to spend money) on which the guardians released the two infant children, (a son and daughter) from so improper a father: they had very good fortunes; and the young lady who was placed where I was, had such peculiar attachments to me, as to give us both great pleasure, when either could reach intelligence of the other: she had certainly the most delicate com-

complexion I ever beheld ; but what seems most singular, was, that with every advantage of youth, beauty, education, and many thousand pounds, she, from a choice which she could not be persuaded to abandon, married an invalid Captain, under a disparity of years, on his side, and the loss of one leg, in the sea service ; and within the last four years when lying-in with her sixth child, she fell suddenly out of bed in a fit, and expired immediately.

As I cannot bring to my recollection any other characters, that will tend to amuse, no particular circumstances having attended them within my knowledge, and several dying young since our separation, I shall close the scene of my education, declaring, that all the indulgences I met with in each department, was

earned by great industry, as my father was immoveably fixed in his determination of never making the least acknowledgement, by presents or otherwise, least it should at any time, prevent my receiving proper discipline, of which, notwithstanding, I never partook, as none was ever tendered to me, after seven years of age.

I omitted to mention, that paying a visit in Hatton-garden, when but just turned of thirteen, (at a Christmas vacation,) where there boarded a young gentleman from Jamaica, of large fortune; and, whether from any particular attachment to my person, or owing to some remarks I made on a parrot, and Canary-bird, I cannot say; but such an impression was made on the young Creol, that it was with
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difficulty he was prevented from following me to school, to urge an elopement: some trite arguments were necessarily used by the guardians of my new lover; but as I was not at so early an age myself, susceptible of that tender passion, nor had compleated my education, the matter soon subsided.

The middle of May, 1753, having ended my pursuits in the learning way, I returned to my father, where a new and strange scene was opened to my view; as an only child, (and being harrassed so much in my youth,) I was led to hope I should have experienced some little indulgences, usual under similar circumstances; but when he looked on me as a daughter, by reflecting on Providence, for not sending him a son in my stead, I found

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I had but little to flatter myself with, on that behalf; and many people were led to believe, from my absence, and hearing no account of me, that I really was not in existence, expressing their surprize at my appearance, which seemed to them as a resurrection, from the conception they entertained of my death, and in a literal sense, it has seemed to me a misfortune, that it was not so, till on mature reflection, I am sensible how offensive it must be, to that Omnipotent Being, (who has created us, to magnify his own greatness, in permitting us to move in this awful career of fluctuating fate, for the purposes most suited to display his power,) to murmur at his wise dispensations; and I rest fully satisfied, that, notwithstanding the various changes he has suffered

ferred me to undergo, in this mortal life, I remain still in his disposal, well knowing that he can both humble and exalt us at pleasure; in which confidence I have been hitherto enabled to submit; and under his supreme direction, from the consolation of my affectionate and sincere friends, to the greatest trials of persecution, which, I believe, were ever allotted to a single individual.

Much, I am ready to think, respecting my father's asperity and dissatisfied temper, was to be attributed to the different disappointments he met with in his marriage state; and more to his hypocritical housekeeper, who again introduced me into some of her own connexions, which were now changed to a set of Antinomians; who, in course, thought

thought themselves authorized to live agreeable to their own corrupt desires, which sometimes led the preacher, Mr. Reilly, (who was likewise an author) in my father's absence, to take rest in his bed; but whether his constant follower occupied the same place, in conjunction, for repose with him, I am not able to judge, except from appearances; which, I own, established with me a circumstantial prejudice against them both; which I certainly, should have represented to her master, but that nothing I could alledge, would abate the opinion he entertained so favourably of her; especially where it coincided with my wishes: between this daughter of enthusiasm and an attendant from the French court, with whom, in my absence, my father contracted a great intimacy; when, his

character is described, the reader of experience will, I dare say, judge of my situation with that degree of sympathy, which is the known attribute of this country; the first being sufficiently enlarged upon, to give disgust, I must next signify, that the Frenchman, who was fully versed in the vices and follies of mankind, to be enabled to bar every sense of tender attachment, wherein his hardened confidence introduced him; and from the bad use he had made of his information, in the female line, he was able to raise my father's indignation against the sex; which, from the bad treatment he had so lately met with, was no difficult task; and he was soon satisfied of the progress he had made in that particular, by the treatment I had met with at his request, as a daughter,

ter, which he himself established, with a wife, who was near forty years younger than the infamous doctard husband, to whom she had unluckily fallen a victim; either from his first seducing her, or from his gaudy appearance; being always dressed like a mountebank, and loaded with gold, enough to have induced a mob to have ordealed him, for the lucre of that corrupting metal which sows so much dissension in this terrestrial world. The remainder of the visitors to our house, being chiefly of the bacchanalian sort, (my father having ever drank much after disappointment) were, however their foibles might operate towards their connections, much more my friends, and indeed endeavoured all in their power to convince my father, how desirous I was
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of assisting all in my power; but he suffered himself to encourage that prejudice, which it was difficult to remove.

Under such guardianship, (but for my protecting guardian angel!) my candid friends will easily suppose, how my feelings must have been effected; the first thing recommended was, my leaving off small beer, to drink water, and thereby check that growing habit of health bestowed on me by nature, and next as much as possible, to prevent the intercourse with my young companions, least by seeing them better treated, I might regret my own misfortunes: and indeed, to sum up the whole, it was meant to stop the progress of every enjoyment; which was thought necessary, to initiate me into that scene of life, consistent

ent with my education (for in that particular, to do justice, no limits were settled but by my own inclinations) in this disagreeable predicament, I inlisted into the cares of life; and but for the cordial assistance of some select friends, (who would not be refused my company, and which I shall occasionally describe), I must at the early age of fifteen, have sunk in despair; and indeed, notwithstanding those seasonable efforts towards my relief, nature could no longer contend with such various calamities; as from the perpetual agitation of mind I struggled with, I was in about three or four months, from excessive grief, attacked with a most violent fever; but having with difficulty obtained permission to spend a few days with a friend, (who was with
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me at school) to relax in some degree, my much depressed spirits, from the vexatious anxiety I daily experienced; but the wound in my floating imagination, had changed my whole animal system, and impeded every domestic assistance: when the disease increased so rapidly, as to oblige the lady, at whose house I was, to send for my father, and inform him of the danger of my situation; on which his medical attendant calling on me, declared the necessity of my being taken home, and confined to my bed as there was apparent danger, if I was not properly nursed. The very idea of going home, seemed worse than death itself, which greatly aggravated the disorder; but knowing there was no redress, I yielded to my sentence, and was taken with great care, to
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my father's, where the collusion between the Master and servant, to neglect me in my distress, is not to be described; as very little else but medicine was allotted me, other necessaries, being thought too expensive and troublesome, by this wicked woman; some relief, was indeed afforded me, from the contrasted civility of my friends, from whence I was withdrawn; but that proved only temporary: the hospitality shewn me, by my friend's mother, having infected her with my disorder, likewise confined her; and stopped my resources for some time, during whose absence, I cannot help saying, but my utmost wish was, to leave this world, (young as I was) not a single ray of happiness appearing to my tormented breast; but as I was thus

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remaining for several days, my drooping spirits were once more called forth, by a more sudden recovery of Mrs. Griffith (for that was the name of my friend) than was expected; whose fresh instances of repeated goodness of heart, with an unexpected alteration in my disorder enabled me to leave my room, for one or two days, but the repetition of that cruelty which had before been exercised, brought on a most dangerous relapse of the former disease, when at last, conscious guilt, while the symptoms were dangerous, took place and farther assistance was offered, as a delirium succeeded; but the application of a blister recovering my senses, I found I was under providence, again to be restored, and referred for a more awful (though distant) scene, than had as yet taken

ken place. The air being proposed as a restorative to my health, was likewise a seasonable apology for my absence: I was ordered to Kingston, for a month, to the house of a widow and her daughter in retirement; when without being previously informed, I found my abode was there to be fixed, and though at a stipend which would have placed me much better, I was compelled to submit to board with Mrs. Collier and her daughter, from neither of whom I could possibly edify in polite life; but as I was well acquainted with several families in the neighbourhood, and the daughters of some very respectable people visited where I was, notwithstanding I fared hard at table, I was certainly much better there than at home; especially as I had the advantage of

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subscribing to a circulating library,
 from which I benefited much. The
 marriage act about that time ta-
 king place, my father and many
 others who had only daughters,
 thought it a good security, but I
 soon convinced him, that I had no
 desire to create any suspicions on
 that head, as I was determined not
 to think of facing the world, in that
 way, till after I should be of age,
 in which resolution I firmly conti-
 nued : my present patron, if I may
 so call her, either from the low in-
 terest of money, or from her penu-
 rious disposition, or both, exhibited
 a temper very rare, as did one of
 her aged companions, who was an
 attorney's widow ; and I think had
 made, seemingly, as little improve-
 ment in her time, as any person I
 ever met with. Another who had

lived a single life, and had great experience; I think, I owed much to for information. Miss Collier having introduced to me, three young ladies, all of good education, and fortune, being likewise only daughters, we formed an agreeable society, which brought on an almost daily intercourse; from my being five years behind the others in age, I was enabled to improve upon their experience, and, notwithstanding my youth, I was in high esteem with the gentlemen of the place, several of whom expressed a desire to form a connection with me in marriage, and made very desirable proposals; one particularly put himself to the expence, of providing music, and a supper, for a ball, in the evening merely for an opportunity, of the spending a few hours in my company;

pany; to which, my not being before apprised, I went; but on reflection, I suffered mortification sufficient, as I always intended to keep my resolution.

It will certainly be expected of me, to specify the ladies in some degree: one of them was remarkably tall and delicate, and the most precisely neat I ever yet saw any one, which on the whole, rendered her very agreeable: she after some years, married an attorney in the same place, and I am informed is still living, and has several children.—

The next had an exquisite fine skin, though not a symmetry of features to establish her as a beauty; she likewise married to a man of considerable note, in the King's-yard, at Deptford, and had many children; but has been some years dead. The

third was equally sensible, affable and handsome, with the addition of a very good fortune, from an uncle (her father who was a private gentleman, and had been expensive, being dead) but, much to his honour, had, after being under misfortunes, been more successful, and making up all deficiencies, was enabled to leave many thousand pounds to his relations, (having no children) but with all those advantages, after living many years single, she made choice of so inconsistent a partner, (though an officer in the navy) that after having two children, she died of a broken heart. Miss Collin, with whom I lived, soon after married a tradesman of repute in town, with whom she has many years since retired, with only one daughter.

C H A P. VIII.

I HAVE not yet remarked the agreeable situation of a gentleman of the name of Pagett, who, though of a penurious turn, had the prudence to retire with a moderate competency, from the leather trade, before he had quite reached the winter of age: he made choice of a house situated in Hamptonwick, in full sight of the Thames; and had the addition of a most delightful garden, well stocked with fruit, where I had for many years been occasionally well received. Mrs. Pagett was indeed the pattern of goodness,

and at all times fostered me with the greatest tenderness, as having been the mother of many children, only two of which reached maturity; whom by her marrying late in life, she did not live to see: and as they disposed of themselves in marriage, it would have rendered her no consolation, as they much injured their father in point of finance, who lived till he was so debilitated, that much advantage was taken of him, by designing people: he lived notwithstanding, to be upwards of ninety years of age; whose son died a few years before, and the daughter very soon after him, leaving behind them each one or two children.

A few months after my stay at Kingston, the Lent assizes came on, at which all the young people constantly

stantly attended, and which, I think, is very proper, being truly edifying, and to myself I really found it so: the solemnity of a court of justice, made an awful impresson on my young ideas; and the pleading of counsel on the Nisi Prius side, I do not now forget; but on hearing the trials of the Crown prisoners, I felt a shock not to be described; and particularly on seeing one of my town neighbours arraigned at the bar, for buying stolen goods, whom I had before a very good opinion of; and he was acquitted, on his reputation being fully exemplified. Sir Michael Forster was then on the bench; and I cannot forget his adherence to punctuality in trials, where life was concerned, which he never would do after dinner: and it was justly looked on a proper

caution, as sitting long with empty stomachs, and though drinking after meals, no more than was needfully required, yet he thought the faculties more incumbered than in the morning. A tanner of the first eminence being that year sheriff, I had the satisfaction of seeing many of my neighbours and friends in court, which rendered me much satisfaction, and on leaving my situation, soon after, I found on my return to my father's, I had made a conquest in one of the attornies, who attended in court, and followed me so closely, that not having at that time, an intention of marrying, (being so young) I found my situation truly disagreeable: and being obliged (having no other channel) to communicate my sentiments to the hypocrite I so much detested, I was enough mortified

fied to employ her, to convey my ideas respecting this matter, to my father, and at the same time, to solicit his care of me, as I did not know what might be the intention of such a rash pursuer; in consequence of which, I was not suffered to go out unguarded, for six weeks, or upwards, during which time reason at last took place, and I heard no more of my amorofo.

The Frenchman having, in my absence, returned back to his own country, or elsewhere, I had one torment less to contend with, and was in hopes things might terminate more in my favour; and as it was thought by my friends in general, that I had not lost time, by my absence of nigh three quarters of a year, when I came home, only to pay a visit; my talent for

trade again shewing itself, (which had been in some degree displayed, on my transacting business of consequence, at only twelve years and a half old,) I was put to the desk, and exerted my abilities as much as possible; but the inspector attending only one day in the week, I found it difficult to put myself in a proper method; but perseverance being a great assistant, I was soon sufficiently compleat in the art, (which I rigidly adhered to for seven years,) to be an accomptant, equal to the handling and passing most of the accounts, without being farther noticed by any other person's observation.

I have not yet described one of my most affectionate and sincere friends, whose name is V——, (and I am happy to notice, is still living) who had fostered me at times, from

ten years of age; and on my nearer approach to maturity, rendered me still more the object of her care and tenderness, which constituted her a patroness of humanity; and her good sense and great experience, operated more powerfully on the sensations of my father, than it was possible for any one else to do; by which means I frequently, at the instance of herself and dear partner, obtained a relax from the laborious task I had entered upon; but as yet, there was not any settled satisfaction, at home, the Antinomian female, was in the way, so there appeared still, some bad connections in entail, and I was urged to take a situation, in a large concern of business, wherein a correspondent of my father's had died, this I must acknowledge, was placing in me a great confidence, in

my emulating, and enterprizing genius, but as I could by no means, think of exposing myself, so much at sixteen years of age, nor could have the vanity, to think I was capable of such an undertaking; I therefore declined yielding to such an inconsistent request; and otherwise, I rather harboured an opinion, that my absence being wished, was the principle motive: in which case, woman like, I determined to endure whatever hardships, might offer, upon the spot where I was, knowing I could be much more useful.

With the advantage of youth, vivacity, and a healthful countenance, (though not handsome) I was sufficiently attended to by the gentlemen; one of whom, in going with me to Vauxhall, with my

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father's consent, made known to me his desire of a matrimonial connection : he was one of those whose intellects were not distinguished at first sight, yet possessed as great a share of understanding as most men I ever conversed with ; but, as I sought experience, I did not think matrimony so ample a field, as to induce me to turn my thoughts so early on so important a subject : but what renders this matter more remarkable, is, that many years after I had entered that state, he paid his respects on the love score, to my friend, who is noticed as being left early a widow, with two children, as he figured to himself, the propriety of uniting with one in my connections ; but sickness interfered ; and death decided, that he failed in both attempts, being cut off in the
prime

prime of life, at thirty six years of age, much regretted, for the loss sustained, by his numerous acquaintance. The lady is likewise still unmarried.

The next application on the same topic, was from a man of great eminence, and long experience, in the north-west part of this kingdom, and on whose account, I was the most tempted to break my resolution respecting time, notwithstanding the disparity on his side; but my father never adopting a degree of familiarity, sufficient to enable me to consult him on such matters in a temporary way, I applied to the gentleman, Mr. F——, (who I long since mentioned to have been my mother's first lover,) and with whom I was at that time permitted to spend a few days occasionally; and finding his ad-

advice so consistent, and coming from a man of his abilities, I determined, however mortifying to myself, to abide by his council : his observation I think, will indeed bear the test ; which was, that my lover being a high party man, should (though I hope it never will) a rebellion again shew itself, I might be deserted under the probability, of having at such time, a numerous family ; this consideration, with the necessity there appeared for a unanimity of sentiment, on more mature deliberation, handed to me a plea, of sufficient weight, to fix in me a resolution no longer to attend to this gentleman's addresses : he, however waited two years in a vain hope ; but my philosophy did not forsake me, and I was really happy, when he had made a more reciprocal choice ; and
have

have the pleasure to say he is still living, with the agreeable lady he then married, and in great prosperity; but as temporal enjoyment must admit of some alloy, I fear he has some specific branches of his numerous family, which are a bar to that needful quiet, in the decline of life.

This last event brought me to the conclusion of my sixteenth year; when our Antinomian housekeeper, finding, as I suppose, an interruption in her amour, by my return home, thought it necessary to adopt as a palliative, a young husband; who, no doubt, was informed of her partiality to accumulation, which entirely coincided with his wishes, of beginning the world for his own emolument; and in which he accorded, by making her his wife,

wife, after a courtship of a few months. I was permitted to go occasionally to their house: and their being situated near some of my own friends, I could not well avoid it, (and indeed I thought it a proper opportunity of acknowledging my obligations to the man who had eased me of so great an encumbrance)—and otherwise, on my father's account, I was in some degree forced to dissemble, as I could not with propriety avoid it, in the course of which visits, I made another conquest of a gentleman, in a respectable line under government, of whom, being a great reader, I well remember I inadvertently accepted the perusal of some books, (Sir Charles Grandison's, history in particular), which were regularly handed by this person's means; but
be-

before I had gone over the whole, reason took place, and I bitterly reflected on my imprudence, in permitting myself unthinkingly, to accept (though so trifling an indulgence) from the hands of a stranger, any favour whatever. This ended my correspondence in that quarter; but soon after their being exhibited in the neighbourhood, some very fine fire-works, (at the expence of a gentleman, who had a son and heir born) I was most earnestly solicited to attend for my amusement; but I determined to withstand the temptation at all events, notwithstanding my father's concurrence, which could readily have been obtained; a second application ensued, but to no purpose (being under the direction of my good stars: though I was not at that time sensible of
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the treacherous part this base woman was acting: and I cannot help thinking at this very moment; but that I was restrained by that good providence who ever defends in the cause of virtue, against the most inveterate assailants. I was very soon after informed by a very prudent matron, who well knew me, that for the above purpose, apartments were provided by the said gentleman, (at a great expence, and furnished with every delicacy of the seasons, for my reception), who was, I flatter myself, sufficiently mortified, under so poignant a reflection, which must accost every man whose conscience accuses him, with mistaking in idea, the inadvertency of an infant, (for such in years I really was) for the yielding disposition, of an amorous daughter of Anatis,
and

and as by this imprudent step, he put a final period to any virtuous intercourse with me, (as I never would see him more) he was, as he justly deserved, totally disappointed in each pursuit: and I never entered the house of this preposterous duenna; reflecting much on my own conduct respecting the books, yet vaunting boldly in my own mind, in the triumph I had made over vice, in its most delusive deformities. I give the history of this event, as a proper caution to parents respecting the people, with whom they entrust the care of their daughters, when on the verge of maturity; as the artifices which are daily practised, by those whose experience ought better to establish their morals, is too often fatally found to evade all the precaution that

that can be used ; and must if successful, destroy the very seeds of happiness in any stage of life, if a discovery of such intrigue, as may be thus fabricated, ever strip off the veil of innocence, under such a deception.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

BEING now permitted rather to enlarge my connections, which still continued among those of the dissenting persuasion, I had frequent opportunities of conversing with many of their ministers; among whom were gentlemen of distinguished abilities; and I did not think my adherence to the church prevented me mixing with different pastors, as it all tended to my information; and as at that time traits of literature discovered themselves, many pleasant passages passed in that way; some faint specimens of which I shall

shall hereafter introduce, (of my own attempts,) though from a false delicacy, which presided in me on my marriage, I destroyed all my manuscripts; and the distance of time has deprived me of the means of collecting the copies among my friends; and indeed, I am fearful, that the most select of them will remain in oblivion. By one of the above learned society, I was favoured with a partiality, who permitted love to give way to reason, as it was by no means a consistent application; or at least, it did not appear sufficiently so to me, to encourage his addresses: he was not afterwards more successful, as he died single, (having the care of a congregation at Norwich) at the age of about forty.—I must acknowledge, that so great a variety of intercourse with different
 peo-

people, rather mollified the rigorous treatment of my father, whose rancour against the sex, was not abated by his increased habit of intoxication, and the late hours he kept, which could not be attended to constantly, by the servants alone, but required my share of the fatigue, by which I was much accustomed to irregularity, and therefore not cultivated by the pleasure my best friends flattered me with, in so cordial a reception as I ever met with among the most discerning: not being enabled to leave business till the close of the evening, it was my only time of recreation; and as I selected such families only as were of the most undoubted repute, and known to my father, I thought myself fully justified in the trespass, which extended to no person's disadvantage,

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but the risque of my own health; and that being well stored with, I did not find impeded but in my eyes, by bringing on most violent inflammations in summer, which were increased by the heat, and for many years deprived me of the advantage of improving myself more in books, which I acknowledge was an unspeakable mortification; but is now (thank God) greatly abated, and would I believe, much sooner on the first attack, but from the necessity I was under of rising so early, for the purpose of attending business, in the extensive concern I had adopted the care of; and which must have been greatly neglected, had I not used unwearied diligence, as I since was too fatally convinced by my absence of only three years and a half, after my marriage: the

industry I had bestowed in seven years being buried in oblivion, as no other person would take on them the active part I had done in behalf of the manufactory.

The first excursion I was permitted to make, was to spend a little time at the house of my friend Mr. Pagett, at Hamptonwick, (whose eligible situation I before described) and where I was, with the same pleasure always received, which was much increased by again meeting my former associates at Kingston, (whose politeness confirmed the satisfaction of our interview) except Miss Collier, whose recent marriage had taken her from thence: and strange as it may appear, during this short stay, a new capture was made in my favour, and that indeed with unbounded and lasting
fin-

sincerity, which I shall mention in progression. After the limitation of my visit, I returned again to town; when, on leaving the coach I took water at Hungerford, where the waterman ushered a gentleman into the boat, (which my youth prevented my hindering) who indeed had the appearance of rank and fashion; after conversing about a quarter of an hour, he offered me in the most honourable terms, his person and fortune; soliciting most earnestly, permission to see me home, and consult my father. This succession of admirers and sudden passion, were certainly sufficient to flatter my vanity; but still I remained fixed in my determination, not to leave the boat, till my admirer made me the most solemn promise, not to follow me; particularly, as I

was going to the house of a friend where I was reprimanded for so rash a refusal; and I really, on a more due recollection, have often thought myself blameable, as I unfortunately had not the temptation to live single, of many in my situation; but I secretly harboured a great share of pride, which I thought I could by no means gratify, from the misfortunes my father had sustained in law, owing to the imprudent connection he had made. I was satisfied he could not portion me agreeable to my wishes; I therefore determined not to alter my condition, till it suited better in that respect, not chusing, as I simply thought, to be obligated to a husband. But be assured my young friends in particular, that such an ill-timed ambition fostered in my breast,

breast, has given a stab to my peace, which time nor future prosperity can eradicate, as the fortune I so eagerly pursued, purchased for me, (in a choice of my own making) humiliation sufficient to bring me to reason which perhaps more early consulted, might at this time have left me in the possession of that plenty, in my own right, which I could not now enjoy, but under the auspices of the most cordial friends.

My father, who still adhered, if not in practice, yet in theory, to Calvinism, insisted on my being instructed in that persuasion, by attending twice in the week on a minister of their church, by whose order I was to learn the catechism necessary to establish in me (if possible) the principles of that doctrine: this, after being so long at liberty to fol-

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low my own inclination, was an obstacle I could scarcely get over at any rate, especially as found I was to be initiated under that banner, by receiving the sacrament in a different church to what I was baptized in. I can but acknowledge it very proper, that I should have followed every religious ordinance; but after the variety I had been introduced to, I wished longer to deliberate on so essential a choice, before I constituted myself a member of any establishment; but prejudice in matters of religion, being productive of more discord than any other, I was determined at all events, to conform; (while in infancy,) well knowing that when of age, I might adopt my own principles. Accordingly, I yielded to the disagreeable task of interrogation, from a Reverend Mr.

Con-

Covenant, from whom I received such lectures, as in his wisdom he thought meet; but his viewing me, in the light of a school girl, (which I blush to confess) subjected him enough to that criticism, which nature had furnished me with; though in his presence I strictly adhered to the old adage, so constantly prescribed to young people, viz. to hear all, and say nothing.

When I had finished receiving this gentleman's lectures, the next thing was, to approach that holy table, which demands the most reverential awe; and is certainly, as intended, the most comfortable communion of the Lord's Supper, when the mind is properly disposed to receive the same; but amidst such a crowd of different ideas, as had been imbibed under different doc-

trines, and the early age I was then at, I suffered greatly in a matter of such moment: and am sorry to say, the first time I partook of that invitation, my fears greatly excited the attention of a gentleman who sat near me, that I was noticed by most of the congregation; and, notwithstanding the agitation of mind I then endured, which proceeded wholly from attending, in a persuasion contrary to what I really professed, I was compelled to accompany my father once more on the same occasion; but as prosperity increased, I gained more latitude, by being more at home; and I could then pursue my own inclinations, as to the preference of hearing; but I never enjoyed the satisfaction of the church Sacrament till I entered the marriage state, at twenty-three years of age.

—I wish

—I wish from the above experience, to cancel if possible in parents and guardians, that bigotry which too often presides in religious matters; and which, if too rigidly enforced in an early age, (where the mind is susceptible) may lay the foundation of much greater evils than many are apprized of by dividing the opinion, for not possessing a proper impression from innate principle, and being interrupted by particular prejudices, too frequently perverts the intention, and leaves the pupil divested of every real sentiment of establishment in that particular, so essentially necessary to our guidance through this weary pilgrimage of sin and sorrow. Much more might be said on so copious a subject, but being a matter of the utmost delicacy, I only mean mildly to declare

my real sentiments, towards that needful mediocrity, which alone can establish the most probable prospect of temporal happiness human nature can admit, and must undoubtedly lay the foundation of future felicity.

CHAP.

C H A P. X.

MY attention to the last important subject, having taken me out of course, as it could not with propriety be blended with any other matter; I must now return to the year 1754, when the intimacy with my old friend, Miss Griffith, with whom I returned from school, caused a frequent and agreeable intercourse, and was kept up in the writing way, but it was not equal, as my partiality to the pen, led me to take a much more ample part in the correspondence; but so long time intervening, I have not the opportunity of producing the few answers

I received to the letters I sent, for which I should be led to a conscious acknowledgement of guilt, but that I condemned likewise my own performances to oblivion, (as I thought) but hope it will not favour too much of vanity, to shew the care my friends have honoured me with, in the preservation of some specimens of my weak performances, but many of which I fear will not reach me in time to exhibit in this work ; the following letter was forwarded to the above lady on her being in Suffolk, on a party of pleasure with her much deserving mother, and I believe contains the first couplet I ever attempted, which much exceeds the usual measure, but I give it briefly as it is, and leave my readers to determine how time and experience has operated, respecting my
different

different performances; the poem which I inclosed therewith is lost, or I would, as it well deserved, have given it a place.

London, June 27, 1754.

Dear Miss,

I enjoy the first opportunity of congratulating you on your safe arrival in the country, where I hope you find as much pleasure as every thing in that place affords; but oh! my dear, was not that which is agreeable to you, the same to me, I should long since have wished you to have bid farewell to every thing there; and may the days, which now seem as weeks, without the enjoyment of so warm a friend, quickly glide away, as a shadow that passeth along, till I once more embrace my past felicity, for my thoughts

thoughts, night and day follow every where with you, our words express the same almost every time I close my eyes, for sweet repose: according to promise I herewith inform you of what has passed in your absence, which is only that I have been at a christening. I am happy to hear, that yourself and honoured mother (to whom I present my respectful compliments) are both in good health, which blessing, thank God my father and self enjoy; my pen would fain exceed the limits to which I am confined, was I not to think of concluding. Mr. L——s compliments attend you both; with his persuasion, and my good-will towards you, I am emboldened to present the poem on the other side, which he begs your acceptance of. I will presume to expect you at the end of six weeks,
for

JANE ELIZABETH MOORE. 183

for which time I wait impatiently,
but not without the hopes of an
answer, and

My dear, may peace, with that feast content,
Possess your breast, while from one friend you're
to another lent.

I remain, dear Miss,

With the greatest amity,

Your most humble Servant,

JANE ELIZ. GOBEIL

Miss Mary Griffith, at Mr. Wares,
in Hart-street, near St. Edmund's-
Bury, Suffolk.

P. S. My compliments attend the
worthy family with whom you re-
side (though unknown.)

I hope the simplicity of the above,
will sufficiently apologize for the
want

want of that fashionable sentiment, which attends modern letter-writing; as it is well known, in that day the manners were much less refined, for which reason I shall enter no farther upon it, but proceed to the return of the dear girl from the country, to whom the above was wrote. When several different parties were formed for our going to Vauxhall, which was then the most fashionable and pleasing place of resort near the metropolis, a few evenings in the summer, for occasional recreation, with such company as was by our friends approved; on one of which parties we met with my very old acquaintance, Miss Hawley, whom I described as going out with her in her father's chaise and pair, when a child; but whose history being somewhat singular, I mean to relate,

late, as nearly as I can bring it to my remembrance. Her life was a direct contrast to mine in point of indulgence; as she had a relation appointed as a companion for her, who had on that account, partook of the same education as herself; but having no mother, it was thought prudent to keep her longer under tuition than usual; on which account, Mr. Hawley judged it proper to introduce to her for a husband, the man of his own choice, whose visits on the occasion were accordingly admitted by the tutoress, and this correspondence continued two or three years, when it was natural to suppose, if the gentleman was agreeable, and the lady at all susceptible, as she was limited from seeing many of the male sex; there was a pro-

a probability of a union between the parties; when the time approached for the celebration of the intended nuptials, Miss H—, was permitted to leave school, and make the necessary preparations usual on such occasions. But to shew the uncertainty of temporal concerns, just at the identical time, of the articles being drawn, a discovery was made of her lover, who was an Hibernian, not proving to be by any means the man he had represented himself, either in fortune or character; for which reason, his intended father-in-law, very prudently although at the risque of his daughter's life, prevented the solemnization of that ceremony, which if ever concluded, must inevitably have ended in his daughter's ruin, notwithstanding the ample portion he intended

intended giving her ; however rash this step might appear, it was certainly more prudent, than to venture to enslave the darling object of his affections, to the sordid and avaricious disposition of a man, whose sole motive was the advancement of his own credit, which was partly established in the mercantile line, on the ideal prospect of his marrying a rich heiress.

The trial was sufficiently severe to all parties ; the young lady was in danger of her life, from the alteration so sudden and alarming an event occasioned ; and her father, who unfortunately had been the innocent cause of her distress, (though not a man of refined sentiment) yet from his great attachment, had never again connected himself in the matrimonial way, was much agitated, as he
fore-

forefaw, at all events his daughter must fall a sacrifice either to death or a bad husband; but providence in great compassion, again restored her to him from the grave, (for that may be truly said, from the severity of her illness) when reason taking place, she was soon convinced of the propriety of every step that had been taken, and again associated with her former acquaintance, seemingly satisfied; but as may rather be expected, at times agitated, on meeting unavoidably the object of her first affections, which sometimes was the case, at the public gardens, and when seeing an old friend, in time of need, was of infinite service, and again introduced that cordiality, which had, in infancy, subsisted; and had only been barred by the misfortunes attending-

tending my family, for about six, or seven years. After some time passed in palliating the former misfortune, a very prudent gentleman, of good estate in Essex, made application to the young lady, and was accepted as a partner for life; but the unwholesome air of the hundred in that county, (as was supposed) disagreeing with the delicacy of her constitution, she after having had four children, was taken from this precarious state, by the cold hand of death; but leaving her father much better satisfied, even under that trying circumstance, than had she fallen a victim to that false man whose character was very soon exhibited to the world in a light, that must have given a more uneasy sensation, than yielding that dear object to the great author of her being, who
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circumscribes to each of us such a portion of his bounty here, as he thinks consistent with the sublimity of his own greatness, power, and wisdom.

Another evening at the same place of amusement we were permitted to spend, under the immediate care of three select gentlemen; one of whom was married, and substituted as a guardian to us all; but a respectable party of people of fashion having provided music for a dance, after the public band had ceased, we inadvertently attended thereto, and omitting to inquire the time, we found it, to our great surprise, two o'clock in the morning; on which, at our return, we met a severe reprimand from my much-respected friend, Mrs. G——, who during a correspondence of near
twenty

twenty years, I never remember to have seen displeased but at that time, when the fault was justly attributed to an omission in our friend, who should have been more careful; and I think it highly needful to recommend such caution, to those who take the care of young people from their parents, not to keep them in such anxious suspense, as notwithstanding the just confidence placed on those occasions, prudence ought particularly to dictate in matters of so delicate a nature.

The incidents of this year (1754) being no farther remarkable, I shall only insert a few irregular lines, which have come to my hands, among others, which are dated in December; but I cannot recollect immediately to whom they are addressed; but as they seem to contain
some

some very warm accents of friendship, I hope further apologies will be needless.

Dear Miss, December, 1754.

Your reception of the few following lines, from one who has the pleasure of styling herself your sincere friend, will for ever oblige the writer; who is, and ever will be,

With the greatest amity, &c. &c.

I. E. G.

Virtues great as ever female mind possess,
Combined are in the lovely creature's breast:
Friendship, the ruling motive in her mind,
And Love, Sincerity, and Truth, refin'd;
Constancy in her lovely mind appears,
Compassion lends Distress her balmy tears.

Her virtues thus described, what next to say?
To the object of her heart now lead the way:
A man most blest'd is honour'd with her love;
May he husband kind as faithful lover prove:
Then on their joyful happy nuptial day,
My faltering Muse shall thus with pleasure say,

In one, two faithful hearts are truly found,
As with each other's hand and wish they're crown'd.
And after many years in cordial marriage life,
They'll end their much-lamented names in that—
Of faithful Husband—virtuous wife.

Note. Whoever takes the trouble of reading these few lines, will I hope be pleased to excuse the defects, as the writer has not long practised poetry.

To the young Lady to whom these lines are addressed.

After the humble apology in the day of writing the above, I shall enter no farther into particulars, as I had then but just entered my sixteenth year. The Christmas holidays were spent with the usual conviviality, among my select companions from home, as having no mother, I had but little latitude for receiving company, but as tea visi-

ters; however as they were no strangers to my situation, they very readily dispensed with every inconvenience, for the satisfaction they acknowledged they found in my company. —The month of February, in the succeeding year, produced an awful event in our family, by the death of an indented youth, in early age: my dissertations thereon will appear by the copies of some letters, sent to a few of my particular friends on the occasion, and I think the perusal of them is a severe conviction to my own ideas, of the small improvement I have made in my moral reflections in the course of thirty years, for which I think no apology can be admitted, but the active part I have taken in business during that time; and I am sufficiently mortified, to find I should have so long
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buried in oblivion my literary talent, from an ambitious pursuit after wealth, in which I most certainly succeeded agreeable to my most sanguine wishes; but am sorry to declare, that the ample recompence Providence yielded to my endeavours, has, to my great misfortune, been sacrificed to the dissipation of my various connections, in the male line of my family. I shall, in consequence of the above, insert the letters verbatim.

Dear Miss, London, the 24th
February, 1755.

Your kind epistle I received, and am sorry to hear you have been indisposed. Health is a blessing we all crave, and ought to prize. I have just had such an instance by the death of a youth of nineteen, in our family,

who gave up the ghost on Saturday last, and was a short time ago in full strength and vigour. But let us not repine at the shortness of our duration here, since in going through this stage of adventures, we shun a world of woe and sin: let us resign all to Providence, and thank the supreme Being for every incident in life; how transitory is our existence, and how ought we to live!

But to quit this topic, and give you due congratulation on the recovery of your health, (which blessing I hope, to see yourself and family long enjoy), Miss Griffith, and myself, join in compliments and return you many thanks, for your kind invitation, which if opportunity serves, we will by no means decline. Since my last I have received

ed from my friends in town, several valuable presents: I have performed your request, and my promise, concerning the songs; I hope they'll please: they are some of the choicest in my magazines. I have been writing almost ever since I received your's to fill the sheet of paper, and make up for the neglect I have been guilty of.

If the uncertainty of things should not permit us to see dear Miss Bund in the country, give me leave to have some hopes of seeing you in town the ensuing summer; but I have nearly filled this side of my paper, and think it time to conclude, Dear Miss,

your's, with the greatest
amity, &c. &c. &c.

I. E. G.

Miss Bund, Woking, Surry.

My father, who was desirous of avoiding every thing that might tend to depress his spirits; left me (young as I was) to combat the awful scene I have described; when he saw the approach of death, in consequence of which I was left to face it, in the best manner my imagination could point out, to dispel the gloominess of my situation, which was to solicit the company of my young friends, which being repeatedly permitted, by their parents, but at last relinquished, fearing they might be afflicted. I was under the necessity of making a fresh application to the mother of my much attached companion, under the appellation of sister, (for such we certainly were, by a much stronger attachment than that of family-

mi-

mily connections) which was requested in the following short epistle:

Excuse, dear Madam, the freedom I take in troubling you, but my sister told me you was not quite agreeable to my enjoying her good company to-morrow, on account of the funeral; but let not that awful ceremony deter you on her behalf; 'tis what we must all meet in due time; therefore pray give me leave to intrude so far on your goodness, as to solicit, on my own account, to have that favour again repeated which has been accelerated to my ample satisfaction, and which I shall ever acknowledge, as I shall be more alone to-morrow than I have yet been, and the shock upon my spirits much more augmented: from the place I embrace in your esteem,

I hope to claim your excuse, for the defects with which this epistle abounds. I remain with all respect due to your goodness.

Dear Madam,

Your most obsequious,

Humble Servant,

I. E. GOBEIL.

Mrs. Griffith.

No particular circumstance followed till the month of May, when I went to pay a visit to my dear friend at Woking, who was the daughter of the reverend Mr. Thomas Bund, more than fifty years rector of that place, who has not long departed this life; as he had seen much of the world, and had great abilities, I trust I benefitted much by his information, which he pleased himself in giving me: and from
their

their attachment to me, so early in life, the whole family united in their wish, of placing their son under the care of Mr. Moore and myself, in which they were not sparing. In going to the above place, I stopped to pay a visit at the town of Chertsey, which being situated in the wild part of Surry, does not require much description ; it is a well built town ; and for those who are partial to fishing, being near the Thames, and only twenty two miles from London, may afford a pleasing retreat : St. Anns Hill, and the ruins of an ancient abbey, are what are most remarkable in this place.— Sir Anthony Abdy, had then the best mansion there ; and I believe the same family, or some part of them, still take up their irrefidence in or near the town.

After a few days, I proceeded to my friends, whose long residence in the place, had made the dulness of it familiar; as there certainly was nothing attractive in it; it is said the late Queen Elizabeth had in this dreary spot a hunting seat, which is to this day known by the name of the park; much money had, notwithstanding, been spent by different people, in or near this spot, particularly by a Mr. Zouch, who lived in the last century, and who, after giving an extra gallery in the church, (which was very ancient) was at the expence, of building a house sufficiently high, to keep the whole building from view at his own mansion, which is still called Hobridge, and stands at the entrance of the town. It was said he really kept a kind of seraglio,

lio in this place: for which reason he could not admit of seeing any thing which tended to admonition. One of his natural children I remember, who lived to a great age; but I believe the family is now quite extinct. Much has been said of a plant resembling asparagus, which grew in the church-yard of this place, but one inquiry, I could not find there had been any seen in the time and residence of my late friend.

The only amusements here are cricket-matches in abundance; and once in the year, (it being only five miles from Guildford,) the races afford the inhabitants a little recreation; but as I have already given my opinion on the propriety of such amusements, I shall end the matter here; and after acknowledging my obligations to my friends, for their

great civility, give some account of my return to town, being accompanied by my agreeable friend when we slept at Chertsey, where, the next morning, the stage being ready, we attended; but stopping at the house of a gentleman of large fortune for a passenger, we (who were both young,) so far attracted the attention of the 'Squire, as to urge him to leave his own chariot and four, (which he sent empty to town) to enjoy our company the few hours we might be on the road; and he indeed, from his learned conversation, made the journey truly agreeable, as so distinguished a preference caused some very entertaining and humourous observations from the passengers, who were more advanced in life, particularly a Scotch gentleman, much the senior of any
of

of my companions, who I well remember, solicited my taking with him a pinch of snuff, (in character); but as I had always a particular aversion to that unnecessary indulgence, I had not made it sufficiently my study to construe his meaning; which he, however, very politely solved, by assuring me that the propriety of the observation originated from the whole being the production of North Britain, himself the snuff, and the box, the latter being the first leather mull ever made in that country: this produced a pleasant smile on the occasion; and under the notice of those of experience, made time pass agreeably.

We soon reached town, when the pleasing reception my young friend met with, from agreeable companions,

nions, was in compliment to myself, truly consistent, (by their testifying thereby the estimate they made of my friendship,) and what pleasures the town afforded, were occasionally proposed by them, for my own ability was not therein competent to my wishes. My father, as I before observed, being too much taken up with such company as was by no means suited to young women of our description, yet the favourite amusements of Vauxhall, and some of the most remarkable spectacles of the times, were attended to by us, (for till then I had seen but few exhibitions of that sort) a few weeks put an end to this round of pleasure when I again attempted the desk with great assiduity, receiving, by such an agreeable relaxation from the business, an additional edge for the
pur-

purſuit, at the ſame time being in hopes of receiving ſuch advantage therefrom, as might hereafter make life more eaſy to both parties; and I am led to believe, that had I reaped the uſual benefits ariſing from induſtry, I had never connected myſelf with any other friend, than the one who ſhould have been moſt warmly ſo, from the ſtrongest ties of nature and affection; but a propenſity to wine inflaming the paſſions, operated moſt powerfully againſt me, by corroding the ſenſes, and thereby barring every effort of filial affection, at leaſt ſo far as to ſtifle every tendency to any particular indulgences, as thoſe I received were really enforced, by the ſenſible and feeling part of my acquaintance, whoſe partiality towards me was ſo great, as frequently to make propoſals for my enlargement

ment from the concerns as home, and would not easily admit of a denial.

I have indeed much to boast, respecting the unwearied attention of my numerous and respectable connections; who, through every stage of life, and under the vicissitudes of fortune which surrounded me, have shewn (even at this very moment, and at the time their aid was most needed) the utmost degree of respect, in every essential particular; and have fostered me, with the greatest regard, by more frequently visiting me, under all the various calamities to which human nature is subjected, than in the height of my prosperity. Such distinguishing marks of friendship, cannot be too gratefully acknowledged on my part; and that kind Providence, who has already

rewarded them for their unbounded generosity in this world with great affluence, will I trust, and indeed doubt not, most amply gratify their most exalted hope in that world of celestials prepared for the spirits of just men made perfect.

With a few intermediate recreations, this summer ended; and the chief of my morning amusements consisted in my privately corresponding with my different friends, as occurrences offered; which interspersed with a few occasional poems, as I better informed myself in that pleasing study, (of which the two following are faint specimens) and are a part of what I have with difficulty obtained copies of, as my friends, from whom I have collected them, laid a strict injunction on me to return

turn the originals, which I certainly have an undoubted right to conform to, as I imprudently sacrificed my own; and they have shewn a sufficient partiality to keep them. As the letters which handed them, may throw some light upon a few laughable incidents, I shall suffer them to appear in all their deformities.

Dear Miss, December, 1755.

As I doubt not but your friendship will excuse my defects, I will presume to present you with the following acrostic :

And am, dear Miss Griffith,
your's, with the greatest
anxiety, &c.

I. E. GOBEIL.

M ay Virtue in you ever reign ;
A nd all her paths pursue :
R emember, when you ever gain
Y our victim, to be true.

Grace

G race guide your temper and your mind,
 R emain from crosses free ;
 I s what's the wishes of your friend,
 F ain what she'd live to see.
 F aint are the words my pen express,
 I n what my heart would say,
 T hen 'till the day compleats your bliss,
 H appinefs crown you may.

The holidays succeeding the writing the above, were spent with the usual conviviality; and with nearly the same company as the preceding, no alteration having as yet taken place among us; but soon after the circumstance which produced the following letter occurred; but I must confess I cannot at this distance of time recollect, among the various applications which my youth and situation caused to be made, to whom to attribute that partiality.

Dear

Dear Sister, February, 1756.

I cannot omit informing you, that last night I had a visit from the spark whose application on the marriage score, I could by no means accede to: he, however, still persists, and says he will take no denial: he offers new proposals to my father, which indeed are very good; but I can scarce think of yielding, when I had once withstood: which has given rise to the following imperfect lines, of my own composing, and which I inclose for your amusement; at the same time, subjecting them to your censure or approbation.

I remain,

My dear sister,

your's most affectionately, &c.

I. E. GOBEIL.

Miss Mary Griffith.

Young

Young Colin once did much my pity plead,
 And brought a true, a faithful heart indeed.
 He at my feet his fortune fain would lay,
 If I to him my love would but display.
 I told him flattery urg'd to what he said,
 And bid him seek some softer yielding maid,
 For that my choice was yet in single life,
 Nor did at present think to make a wife.
 —Your fancy then, said he, I doubt, is plac'd:
 Oh! happy swain that with your love is grac'd.
 —In anger next, I made him this reply:
 A bad opinion sure, I've in your eye,
 When once, nay, many times, I you have told,
 At present, that no swain, or young or old,
 My heart to their possession had obtain'd,
 Think not in truth, so soon, my love is gain'd.

Much mov'd, he told again, a mournful tale,
 As might o'er many hearts indeed prevail;
 And said, a resolution fix'd he'd make,
 That never any nymph to wife he'd take,
 Let reason, that great virtue, bear the sway:
 Nor to fond passion, more than sense, give way.
 With Colin, all those arguments I held,
 Which termed as folly, ever yet have failed.

C H A P. XI.

IN recounting over so many other adventures I omitted to mention, the particular attention paid me by a gentleman at Hamptonwick, who very frequently wrote the most pathetic epistles, which I for a long time returned unopened, till I was tired with being so inconsiderate; when at last, I ventured most carefully to inspect them, and found them to contain the most unbiassed and disinterested declarations of love and friendship; but my inclination towards that passion abating with increase of years, which is generally

the case after the puppy age, I as cordially returned them, after perusal, as before, which my swain for some time yielded to, as a seasonable admonition; and soon after, I was again attacked by the same topics, as will appear by the following letter to my foster sister.

Dear Sister,

According to promise, I mean to inform you, of all my adventures. On Saturday afternoon came the Frenchman, powdered to the life; when after asking many impertinent questions, he made a motion to stop, but instead of giving him an invitation, I very genteelly bid him good night, and he walked off in a huff.

But to proceed, I yesterday gave Miss Baker, an invitation from
church,

church, to drink tea with me; when after a little time entered Mr. B—e, on her account; but to come to the chief point, they were soon followed by Mr. M——t, to my great surprise, but to his satisfaction Mr. T——y had spoke to my father, on Christmas-eve; and he made no particular objection, but my being too young, being not much above eighteen——Hum for that, but to conclude; for that time, he said he would consider on the matter.—— Amidst those and more adventures, I remain (as before),

Your sincere friend,

And dear sister,

(till death),

I. E. GOBEIL.

This, as the rest of my interviews in the same way presently evaporated
in

in smoke, as my imaginations were merely ideal, and by no means copied from sincerity: had it been otherwise, I certainly had never done more prudently, than to have fixed with the gentleman I last mentioned, as he was the eldest son of a clergyman of good estate in Essex, and by the death of six brothers and sisters, all of whom died without issue, he now possesses the whole; but on my refusal, he made a much more prudent choice, in a lady who brought him a large fortune, and made him the father of eight fine children: they are still all living, and in great unanimity; and when we meet, he still talks pleasantly of the old story.

The approaching nuptials of a young friend, whose name was Boote, and whom I have not speci-

fied, as she married more early than the remainder of our society, was more taken up in her notions of love and future cares, she does not demand that attention I should otherwise give her in this detail; though the friendship still subsists essentially, or I should not have been able to have exhibited the following poem, which had been put together on her paying a visit to her intended husband's friends, who lived at Wareham, in Dorsetshire, where they likewise afterwards lived, and were particular sufferers in the terrible conflagration, which that town suffered, about twenty years since; notwithstanding which, the partiality to my performance, protected it from the flames: it is as follows, with the introduction, in which I omitted to mention, that the intended bridegroom

groom was to meet the object of his affections at Blandford.

Dear Miss, February 1756.

Conscious of my neglect in not presenting you with due congratulations, on the present season, hope the following poem, (tho' full of defects) which claims excuse from your goodness, will supply the place of that which was before omitted, by her who is, nevertheless,

Dear Miss,

Your's,

With the greatest friendship,
&c. &c. &c.

I. E. GOBEIL.

To Miss Joanna Boote.

My Muse with joy assumes her softest strains,
And welcomes you to Sarum's airy plains ;
The vehicle draws slowly on, whilst you
With watchful eye keep Blandford next in view ;

To see if Strephon waits to meet you there,
Oh! yes, with joy, to see his Sylvia fair,
And safe conduct her to her journey's end;
Wareham's the place that entertains my friend.
What kind caresses they each other give,
While each their grateful looks approv'd receive.
Happy with Strephon, now no cares torment,
My Sylvia's breast, no frowns her sighs augment,
No crosses now to interrupt her peace,
But each new day presents new scenes of bliss,
Thrice happy pair! that love so true,
In Virtue's path none can ere rival you.
May this revolving year in Hymen's bands,
Soon consecrate your love, and join your hands;
And crown in you the virtues of a wife,
While Strephon softens all the cares of life.
Oh! may each kind surviving year like this,
May climacterics roll in lasting peace,
While Strephon, happy in his Sylvia's love,
Renews his stronger vows as days revolve.

Adieu. May the Fates combine to
make you happy.

It gives me pleasure to announce,
that my wish was gratified, and
5 their

their desires accomplished, in a few months after this address; and notwithstanding they at one time were made sensible in some respects, that this is a precarious tenure, yet fortune has terminated much in their favour; they have been the happy parents of fourteen children, (eight of which are now living) and the whole family in great prosperity.

The next event to be noticed was, the declaration of war against France, which took place in the month of May the same year; which, among others, I went to see; and though it does not appear immediately to concern me literally, did very much essentially, as on the success of that war, and the unfortunate conclusion of the peace, (of which no one in trade was sufficiently apprized) I underwent two very material changes,

of fortune, as will shew itself hereafter. The loss of Oswego, in America, and Minorca in the Mediterranean, are events which need not my pen to hand down; but as I coupled a few lines to a friend on the occasion, I shall introduce them in course.

To a young Lady, desiring to know the news of the Town.

You ask me news; but what must I relate?
 The talks of war, and lottery, and state?
 There's blanks and prizes, some ten thousand pounds,
 With blanks of late Britania's isle abounds.
 What dire effects the loss of forts has had,
 Minorca! Oswego, none in their stead.
 Britania's gain'd—but hope kind Justice will
 Reward her hero*, whose great merit still
 Shines forth, though conquer'd, and in conquest
 will;

But haste my Muse to some more pleasing theme,
 And boast of Briton's conquests in the stream;
 Whose Captains from the ocean daily bring,
 Prizes, t' enrich their owners and their King.

Like

* The brave General Blakeney.

Like Mars, they fear no thundering cannon's roar,
 Nor thousand bullets, be they far from shore,
 But conquest is their aim, on which depends
 Peace to Britannia's isle—her only ends.

The earthquake at Lisbon, is the next thing that strikes me in idea, and which I should not remark, but for one particular circumstance, (as it was too awful ever to be eradicated from any person's remembrance) which was, my being in company with a gentleman, whose name, I think, was Martin, and who being present, in that awful moment, escaped the general calamity by jumping suddenly on a lofty Tombstone, in which wonderful situation he was protected from harm, while he beheld five hundred of his fellow creatures, fall a sacrifice in that tremendous spectacle; which had fixed a settled melancholy on his counte-

nance, and it did not seem likely, would soon wear off; and whatever natural philosophers may argue in such cases, I shall ever think, that those extraordinary occurrences, proceed from the operations of providence, in the different periods of time, in which they, under the supreme direction, shew themselves.

This account being late in the year, the Christmas holidays soon succeeded, when my intimacy increasing with my most respectable friend Mrs. V——, I found great relief from the frequent opportunities she gave me of seeing company; and taking me often out with her, particularly to balls, and to some people of the first fashion in the polite world, indeed the attachment increased so much on both sides, that
I, in

I, in the true sense of the word, adhered to the precepts of that worthy family, more strictly than I did to those of my father; and indeed, their interest seemed more connected with mine, as they all studied whatever was most essential in my behalf, equally as their own children, who, being sons, and then young, were scarcely so much with them; and the only wish they had was, that there could have been a probability of a nearer connexion. Presents, journeys, the use of the carriage, and every other indulgence, was continued to me, ever with the same profusion: and I still share the same degree of esteem as I am well informed, though I dare not attempt to put pen to paper to that worthy lady, on a matter of such delicacy, for on the confirmation of my misfortunes, she

last two nights rest, in condolence and unity of sentiment.

From the failing attempts of so many gentlemen, who had been sanguine respecting matrimonial concerns, without success, they admitted of a truce for a few months, except from my friend at Hamptonwick, who still continued writing, but without effect; and likewise from a gentleman in town, who frequently sent me a polite letter, in the love stile; but as I was thought to be of an ambitious turn, he at the same time informed me, that accumulation should be his particular study, till he thought he could amply gratify my wishes; but of this more will be said hereafter.

After passing the holidays in the usual way, with my other friends, (exclusive of the last) the spring of the

the year 1757, brought very pleasingly to my idea, the hopes of an excursion with my foster-mother, for that appellation she ever deserved, which was to include a journey to Dorking, in Surry, for a week, and then we were to proceed to Farnham; both which we accomplished, as soon as my dear friend was enabled to travel, (for she had been most dangerously ill;) but what was truly laughable, (though luckily till after our return unknown to me) was, that I had been held up by one of my father's bacchanalian companions, to a gentleman of the same race, as something so extraordinary, as to almost have solemnized a marriage contract without an interview of the parties. I cannot say but I thought it a bold attempt, and in that light, I believe it gave us each an antidote

sufficient to avoid each other, or at least, it seemed as if our own dictates had operated sufficiently to bar any farther progress; and I really believe, that one-half of the opulent tradesmen who had daughters, in that day, thought it no imputation to offer them to the best bidder, as that might certainly have been the basis in the above, as money was not wanting; but I did not chuse to gratify my pride at the expence of my future happiness; at least, not where I had ocular demonstration to conduct me.

The town of Epsom, (which we went through to Dorking) is famous mostly for its salubrious spring, and the races on Banstead-down, a few miles distant, where such exceeding good mutton is fed) is twenty-four miles from London, and fifteen from Guild-

Guildford,) is seated on the banks of the river Mole, and upon a rock of soft sandy stone, in which deep cellars are dug, that are extremely cold, even in the midst of summer : it is plentifully supplied with all kinds of provisions, particularly the finest fowls in this country, some of which at Christmas have been known to weigh seven or eight pounds each. Several gentlemen's seats there are at or near this place, (the air of which is esteemed very pure) particularly a small hunting seat, belonging to Lord Barckley, but which was remarkable in no particular but the exquisite neatness of his Lordship's taste, as no vessel composed of mineral materials throughout the house, but was kept with the same polish as they were bought ; and for which purpose, an
extra

extra person was employed constantly in the winter season.

The seat of Jonathan Tyers, Esq; (the proprietor of Vauxhall Gardens) at a place called Denbigh, about one mile from Dorking, next took my attention, as the owner has equally displayed his taste in this rural spot, as in his public exhibitions; the house stands on a fine elevation, and commands a most beautiful prospect of a rich vale beneath, and finely variegated, by the river Mole, circling through it, on the side of which stands the town of Dorking: it has a noble terrace, of near a quarter of a mile long, which perhaps may vie with any thing of the kind in England.

The gardens lie on the side of a hill, covered thick with a grove of trees, cut into a labyrinth of walks,

some descending, some ascending; in some parts easy, smooth, and level, in others, rugged and uneven. Almost at every turn, there are flags hanging out, with some moral sentences and admonitions inscribed on them, for our instruction; and to give a serious turn to the thoughts, not far from the entrance over, is inscribed, *procul este profani*, there is a sort of hermitage, called the Temple of Death, wherein is a monument to the memory of Lord Petre, on one side, in which is a desk for reading and meditation, to which we are called by the melancholy striking of a minute clock; to assist us therein, the walls are covered with the finest sentiments of our best writers and poets, as Doctor Young and others. But what strikes you most is, the awful conclusion of the whole.

We

We are conducted to the iron gate, which leads to the valley of the Shadow of Death; at the entrance of which, instead of columns, for a portico, two stone coffins are erected, with human skulls placed upon them, in the manner of addressing those who enter. It is asserted, that they are the real skulls, one of a noted highwayman, the other of a celebrated courtesan, in the neighbourhood of Covent-Garden. The first addresses the men :

“ Why start ? the case is your’s, or will be soon :
 Some years perhaps—perhaps another moon :
 Life in its utmost span is still a breath,
 And those who longest dream must wake in death.—
 Like you, I once thought every bliss secure,
 And gold of every ill the certain cure ;
 Till steeped in sorrows, and besieged with pain,
 Too late I found all earthly riches vain ;
 Disease, with scorn, threw back the sordid fee,
 And Death still answer’d, What is gold to me ?

Fame,

Fame, titles, honours, next I vainly fought,
 And fools obsequious nursed the childish thought ;
 Circled with brib'd applause, and purchas'd praise,
 I built on endless raptures, endless days,
 Till death awak'd me from a dream of pride,
 And laid a prouder beggar by my side.
 Pleasure I courted, and obey'd my taste,
 The banquet smil'd, and smil'd the gay repast :
 A loathsome carcase was my constant care,
 And worlds were ranfack'd but for me to share.
 Go on, vain man ! to luxury be firm ;
 Yet know I feasted but to feast a worm !
 Already sure, less terrible I seem,
 And you, like me, can own that life's a dream :
 Farewell ! remember, nor my words despise,
 The only happy are the only wise."

The other scull seems thus to address the ladies :

" Blush not ye fair, to own me, but be wise,
 Nor turn from sad mortality your eyes :
 Fame says, and fame alone can tell how true,
 I once was lovely, and belov'd like you.
 Where are my votaries, where my flatterers now ?
 Fled with the subject of each lover's vow !
 Adieu ! The rose is red, and lilly's white,
 Adieu ! those eyes which made the darkness light :

No

No more, alas! that lip is seen,
Nor longer breathes the fragrant air between.
Turn from your mirror, and behold in me,
At once what thousands can't, or dare not see!
Unvarnish'd I the real truth impart,
Nor here am plac'd but to direct the heart:
Survey me well, ye fair ones, and believe,
The grave may terrify, but can't deceive.
On beauty's fragile base no more depend,
Here youth and pleasure, age and sorrow end!
Here drops the mask, here shuts the final scene,
Nor differs grave three score from gay fifteen:
All press alike to that same goal, the tomb,
Where wrinkled Laura smiles at Chloe's bloom.
When coxcombs flatter, and when fools adore,
Learn here the lesson to be vain no more!
Yet virtue still against decay can arm,
And even lend mortality a charm."

The spectacle which offers itself
to view upon a descent into this
gloomy vale, is quite awful. There
is a large alcove, divided into two
compartments, on one of which the
unbeliever is represented, dying in
the greatest distress and agony, cry-
ing,

ing, Oh! whither am I going? and just falling from the precipice of life, but expressing sad misgivings about his future state. On one side, and above him, is his study of books, which buoyed him up in his libertine course, such as Hobbe's Tolland, Tindal, Collins, Morgan, and others of the same stamp. In the other compartment, is the good Christian, or believer, in his dying moments, calm and serene, taking a decent solemn leave of the world, as it were, anticipating the joys of another life, with the following label subjoined, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, &c." he has the bible open before him, which, with several practical discourses upon it, and the sermons of our most noted divines, such as Clark, Tillotson, and others of the same kind serve to make up his study.

The

The whole is painted by Mr. Hayman, and expresses the situation of the persons, their different sentiments, and passions, very much to the life. Before this portraiture, at some distance stands a large image on a pedestal, taking its vizard off, with this inscription, "Truth," of which that bust is designed to be a symbol, plainly intimating, that as soon as the disguise of this life shall be taken off, the picture before it, truth, must appear at last," when the wicked will be driven away in his wickedness, but the righteous have hope in his death."

The house which was then standing, has been since taken down, and a very neat modern building raised in its stead, where one of the best rooms it contains the history of
Mary

Mary of Medicis, in the most superb French engravings. There is likewise a well of uncommon depth, I think four hundred and seventy feet, as no water from the springs could be obtained by his predecessors, Mr. Tyers was determined to persevere till he had accomplished so desirable an end. The country abounds so much with box, as to cause one of the hills to go by the name of Box-hill; and near it is one which exhibits a blank space of chalk, which is called the Stomacher. I should not have given so particular a description of this spot, but that I believe there is not a similar one in this kingdom; and the contrast which appeared in the character of the owner, and my living many years in the house he was born in, made me the more desirous of gratifying

tifying my readers with so luxuriant a feast.

Going on a party of pleasure to Betchworth, three miles on the road between Dorking and Ryegate, we were most agreeably entertained with a walk in the fine gardens of ——— Kirby, Esq; whose luxuriant taste in botany, was most pleasingly displayed, in a great variety of the most curious shrubs; and the building consisted of a temple, dedicated to the sun, in which were the largest orange trees I had then ever seen, loaded with fruit, in regular progression from the flower.

The next building which attracted the eye, was a moss-house, in which the gardener assured me, there were three hundred specimens of that curious plant. There was likewise a building which was to be dedicated
to

to Diana of the Springs, which was to contain a fountain, and to be adorned with as many specimens of spar, as the other was with moss, if they could be obtained.

From thence at a small distance in the same village, (of Betchworth) was an elegant house, the property of ——— Spooner, Esq; whose family had been as attentive to the fine arts, as his neighbour had been to nature, for there was, I really believe, a collection of pictures equal to most in this kingdom, (though I have since that time seen many;) Seneca dying in a bath, the Roman Charity, Perseus and Andromeda, a Baptist's head, a Madona, and many others, by the most masterly hands, of the ancients, were among the above, which had been selected at an enormous expence, by the rich heir of
that

that wealthy family; but as all things are uncertain on this side the grave, so it proved to the promising youth, who had with great pains made so pleasing a choice on the Continent, and no doubt flattered himself with the expectation of hereafter making some pleasing observations, but fate deemed it otherwise; he died on his travels in Italy: thus were the hopes of this respectable and ingenious young gentleman blasted, and the disappointment so awful to his friends, that those fine and enchanting emblems were permitted to stand about in the rooms without any order, only admitting air sufficient to keep them from mildew. There was likewise a most beautiful family picture, consisting of eleven figures, as large as life, drinking tea under an apple-tree, in full bloom, which with a honey-suckle

suckle interspersed among the branches, met the eye most luxuriantly. There were likewise some very fine sculptures; but the subject being rather too indelicate, must be omitted. The family not having been able to contend with the uneasy sensations occasioned by the death of their son, had deserted this beautiful scene of splendid retirement. There were likewise in the temple, dedicated to the sun in the first description, the four seasons of the year, in Indian china, very large, and, as I never since have seen any, I could not pass over the remembrance of those beautiful pieces of art.

We next, agreeable to appointment, proceeded to Farnham, where we met every friendly reception; and the first place which claimed our notice, was the castle which

belongs to the see of Winchester: it is a venerable pile of building, but affords no particular notice, except that the hanging gardens are well disposed for convenience, ascending gradually by steps from each to the other. This town is surrounded with hop-gardens, the produce of which the world are enough acquainted with, not to need my description. About two miles from this place is More-Park, then in possession of a lady of that name: the situation is delightful, and in the middle of it is discovered a subterraneous passage, through which runs a small stream, that empties itself into a reservoir in the park, and from that is well stored with trout, which make their way into the river, leading to the town: it is not, I believe ascertained, from whence this stream originates; but tradition holds it

it, from the experiment made of sending in a goose, that was seen by some person coming into the river at Guildford, which is full ten miles distant: over this pretty rivulet, is a small marble stone, that maintains the regularity of its passage, and is called a Wishing-stone; and on which the young people are jocularly ordered to kneel bare, and wish for good husbands and wives, as occasion requires.—Many superstitious tales are handed down too insignificant to relate, particularly as they are upon a par with many others in country places, and serve to amuse; but certain it is, that the whole excites admiration, to those who study the beauties of nature.

About the same distance from Farnham in another road, is the remains of a priory called Waverly Abbey: it seems to have covered

much ground, and part of the Cloysters were converted into a summer-house or tea room, for the accommodation of the family in possession; the appearance was truly venerable, the ivy-grown walls, the antique windows, and above all, the great number of visible repositories of departed souls, I own struck me with awful reflections, on the transition this place had essentially undergone, from being at one time solely appropriated for the purposes of divine worship; but among all, I have seen remaining of a similar description, I do not remember one where there appear so many graves covered with brass, and a sort of black slate, which I presume is not so common in other places. The gentleman to whom this memento of mortality belonged, displayed as much taste
in

in water, as the others had, whom I noticed in other particulars, which were discovered in his beautiful gardens, variegated in every shape which ingenuity could devise: a serpentine river ornamented with Chinese bridges, a temple, a summer-house embellished with shells, and many other things, as specimens of the same sort, met the eye on one spot, while on the other, nature was almost rivalled in the disposition of trees resembling a wood, which was so well imitated as to delude the feathered songsters thereto, under an Idea of its fostering care; to encourage which, every delusion met them in a plentiful supply of food suited to their different descriptions; squirrels in abundance were likewise seen running about and climbing in this temporary grove including

in the whole, the most pleasing parterre I ever remember to have spent an agreeable afternoon in.

My readers, will please to observe that as this excursion was made in the year 1757, what alterations have since happened 'tis hoped will lay no imputation on this account, as, notwithstanding having been several times in that country since, they were not again revisited. It may appear rather singular to observe, (but it is certainly true) that the first exhibition I ever attended in the theatric way, was in a barn at this place, where in the performance of Miss in her Teens the young actresses who took on her that character, carried twelve or thirteen stone weight: we spent our time in this tour very pleasantly, and had an agreeable ride to town over Bagshot-Heath, where
my

my dear friend was rather alarmed at seeing every carriage we met properly armed ; but as fear was not one of my associates, I studied much to banish that disagreeable idea from her well warmed breast, and succeeded so well, that she often solicited my company on the road.

C H A P. XII.

AT our return again to London, the usual amusements of the season were occasionally introduced; and I found a little leisure in the mornings for my favourite employ, or rather amusement, in writing; and I am led to believe, the following observations were the result of some conversation which passed about that time; but as they were handed to me by an old friend very lately, without the cover which inclosed them, (perhaps for some very particular reason) I cannot exactly ascertain the time, as there was no date
to

to the sheet on which they were separately wrote. I give them in the stile of the time in which the thought originated.

SENTIMENTS.

As I have by various persons been questioned on many important points in argument, on the different opinions of those who lived before me, and my approbation thereon required, I presume the following weak sentiments may not be disagreeable to those who may again attack me on the same topics.

As Christianity and the love of our Creator are of the greatest importance, and claim the first place in this essay, I shall make no farther preface.

My opinion on this subject is, that persons whose morals and principles

L 5 are

are founded upon religion, can in no wise act in an ignominious manner towards their fellow-creatures, (tho' of a meaner class,) for according to the dictates of a rational mind, we are taught to live in the path of virtue, in which are contained many endowments, such as charity, benevolence, friendship, &c. And as those points are a guide to morality, and morality to the praise of that great Being which impowers us to act, I shall enlarge no farther on this head, but conclude with the hopes that we may all attempt (with success) to follow the example so truly set us by many of our ancestors, and make our exit in the same happy manner.

ON FRIENDSHIP.

I think where friendship is truly founded in a mind, which has
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the opportunity of enjoying it in perfect unity with another of the same ideas, it is the most exalted pleasure our transient bliss produces; for it sweetens the imbitterments of life, softens all our worldly cares, and makes us so spiritually inclined as to pass by our crosses, as our shadows, which glide with the light that makes them apparent. Friendship guides us to other virtues. A true friend (of which there are but few) crowns all our wishes, which, I am so happy as to experience; may it be continued.

I fear the name though so sacred, is too often perverted, by mistaking those who are virtuous, for those who are not. Is it possible, that a person who claims a right to that name, can countenance any thing contrary to the dictates of virtue in another?

L 6

No,

No, it is impossible: though we too often see that error in persons who profess the strongest ties of friendship, in a wrong light it must be, since that is a point which should nor can produce any thing (when rightly considered) but what is consistent with the most punctilious minds. What pity then it is, that what is so conducive to happiness, should be so profaned by a misunderstanding in persons who make a claim of friendship in a mistaken sense.

ON PHILOSOPHY.

In my opinion, persons who are of a philosophic turn of mind, enjoy the greatest tranquillity in life, as they live above the world, and look upon the transactions of it as the worlding does upon those small insects in the air, which pass his eye

eye almost unseen and quite unregarded, as his thoughts are employed in what he calls more essential joys, such as gold, and what therewith may be procured. But oh! how deceived is he! how much more happy is the philosopher, whose aspiring mind invites him to contemplate on the beautiful works of the creation, and can always find some new object to excite his admiration, which to us may seem but trivial. —How delightful a theme must that be, which affords amusement to the exalted intellects of those who adapt their study to so essential a progress; and at the same time, strike with amazement the thoughts of all those who search into the divine subject, be they ever so much embarrassed with the different occurrences of life. Not to say,
that

that persons whose situation in the world claim their thoughts that way, can have no share in that enjoyment, for we have frequent instances to the contrary ; as all those who are employed in care, are not what I term worldlings, for those I hold so to be, are a sect who think of nothing but those few transitory enjoyments here, which are but for a short time.

ON PLATONIC LOVE.

My reasons for holding with platonic love, is, that I think it is contrary to the dictates of virtue, to imagine that persons cannot rely upon essential, without natural love, though I know of some who thinks because a platonic mind is entirely consistent with friendship, say it must likewise favour of stoicism ; but
on

on the contrary, friendship has the strongest combination with love, than what can be more sublime: for it is persons of the most exalted notions in the world, who pretend, or really are platonics; and as we are all apt to admire those who seem most acquainted with knowledge, how then is it possible, to defeat that point. I have heard it said, where could we find such sentiments in history? I have myself, and found they contained the most engaging lines with much harmony, and wrote in such language, as not to be disagreeable to the most punctilious ideas. I have thus laid down my reasons for holding with platonic love, and what I believe will not easily be eradicated from my principles, nor do I desire it should: we mostly esteem the precepts of
the

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the heathen philosophers, if not entirely their practice; why not then approve of this, in Plato's writing? perhaps he might set the example; but not to my knowledge, so I will not enlarge farther on this head.

Whatever may be judged respecting the above observations, I hope, as the writer was then not more than nineteen years of age, I shall not be too hardly censured, as I really explained fully what I at that time thought right without disguise; and I cannot help wishing from some recent circumstances, that had I ever maintained the same opinion, I had fared much better, at least as might literally be judged from apparent events, but under the decrees of Providence, though we see through a glass darkly, in the present

sent instance, I cannot help coinciding in the strongest terms with that inestimable judge of the human system, Mr. Pope, viz. "that whatever is, is right."

CHAP. XIII.

SOON after the above in doing some shell-work, I had the misfortune to throw the boiling cement, which was composed of rosin and beeswax, over my right hand, which in a few minutes brought on an inflammation, and obliged me to have the sleeves cut open, to make way for the arm, which was so soon swelled to an immoderate degree, from which accident

dent I was some weeks confined, at least from any employ, or even amusement; but what leads me to this remark is, the intercourse this matter brought on between the young gentleman who attended me in the surgical way, as notwithstanding we had been neighbours many years, no intimacy had as yet taken place; but the sympathetic part he took in my behalf, certainly shewed his unfeigned regard: his name was O—r, and his being remarkably handsome, and heir to a good estate, was no impediment to my noticing him in return, we sometimes continued to see each other by his calling, (being so near) an hour in the evenings, or by his occasionally meeting me at a friend's house, where we both visited; and once I believe he conducted me home from a neighbouring

ing ball; yet during all this time, I could perceive a kind of jealousy in his disposition, which in the event shewed itself in a singular degree. On my soon after accepting an invitation to go to Vauxhall with a lady, to whom I was well known, in company with a naval officer of good fortune, who addressed my friend Mr. O——r, finding I had not previously informed him, he determined to be first in the gardens, with a company of his own select friends. I own I felt myself rather agitated at so unexpected an interview, notwithstanding with the party at whose instance I went, the evening passed very comfortably till about ten o'clock, when being accosted by a large company, with whom we were acquainted, (one of whom was Lord Lyon,

who

who soon after died,) we agreed to admit them into our box, which was the only one which was so thinly inhabited, (it being the last night of the season :) this equally irritated the officer, who found likewise a disagreeable propensity respecting the object of his affections, which, situated as I was myself, produced secretly in my imagination a disposition for merriment, especially as my passions had no great tendency towards matrimony ; but I confess, I could not in the event find that the matter would prove serious ; for Captain H——y was really in earnest, and walked fullenly about, without noticing his party ; and on our being absent on a walk, at his return to his seat, he sought us, and insisted on immediately returning home : this I confess, as it was not
then

then remarkably late, I looked on as very extraordinary ; but as I had no right to interfere, the coach was ordered, and we proceeded : but how great was my surprise on our entering, to see him draw his sword, and hold it naked in his hand the whole way, (particularly as he was perfectly sober,) I well knew before that time, he was remarkably passionate, it appeared awful, and more so, as he refused giving any reason for this singular conduct. I confess the lady with myself, appeared so intimidated, that I found it necessary to stay with her till the morning, as in so disagreeable a predicament, I thought it but just to see how the matter would terminate, which it did in finally barring any future connections ; but what still made it more aggravating in my

comprehension, was, that after a time he called on me, to apologize for the past; and as a palliative, declared himself my lover. This depravity of mind in a man near forty years of age, operated powerfully on my imaginations, to the disadvantage of the masculine sex; and I am apt to think, I convinced him sufficiently of his error, to prevent his making any future attempts in that way, as I heard many years after, he remained single.—I am persuaded that on this recital, including the event to myself respecting the young surgeon, the evening will be deemed rather ample in adventures, as it closed the scene with all parties, without the trouble or anxiety of a long correspondence; for the behaviour of my beau appeared such a contrast to the idea I before entertained,

tained, that I congratulated myself on so fortunate a foresight, and determined never more to see him, in the character of a lover; and on his being most cruelly used by his guardians, he determined to go abroad; which he did, first to the East, and next to the West Indies, at the last of which places he died of a bilious fever, under thirty years of age.

It may perhaps seem on the representation of the few last scenes, that I had an establishment of ease and pleasure, but I can truly assert to the contrary, as those little tours I took once in the year in the country, were the result of a determination I had made with my father, to have a certain time in each season appropriated to my own disposal, in consequence of my attending business in the most scrupulous manner in
the

the intervals, or that I should at all events change my situation, which he found it his interest most to coincide in ; but my sufferings in many respects exceeded all description ; for as dissipation encreased, the burthen must inevitably rest with me, as no other person would essentially take upon them the perplexity of such an extensive concern. To describe the irregularity of my life, would take of itself almost a volume ; for at one time I was perhaps under the necessity of drinking two gills of wine before dinner, and two or three glasses after, merely to avoid altercation ; and at others, had not a bottle of wine or any thing else to accommodate a friend of my own, or even a shilling in my pocket, (though there was certainly a plentiful table bordering on
extra-

extravagance) I was urged as I reached maturity, by people of the first discernment and experience, to assist myself in my province as an acting clerk; but from a conscious delicacy, which I could not yet get over, I ever accounted in the receipts to a single shilling, (many thousand pounds going annually through my hands,) I was from those circumstances, obligated in some degree to desert my improvement in reading and writing, as my own fingers were to furnish me nearly with decorations for my appearance, when extras were required, which almost destroyed my optic faculties, till more order took place. The only consolation I had under such severe trials, was the esteem I was held in by many worthy and most respectable friends, who were perfectly acquainted with

the history of my family, and applied my case much to my advantage; and to them alone I owed the pleasing relaxations of single days and evenings, as I was sometimes left in a very uneasy suspense at home, my father often leaving town on horseback, and has not wrote for my information under seven or eight days; when from his habit of drinking I was fearful lest any accident should have befallen him.

Nothing afforded me a more pleasing sensation, than the intercourse I obtained (sometimes with, and sometimes without the knowledge of my father) with my foster father Mr. F——e, whose particular attachment continued to shew itself without intermission; yet between the desire he had of connecting me with some of his friends who were mostly foreigners, and the plan at
home

home for my sacrificing myself to a son of Bacchus, (to both which I had most particular dislike) rather made me averse to enter into any conversation on the subject; and at some particular times, made both places appear irksome, though my interest was apparently centred with both; but what seemed to me the most essential, (divested of that part of filial affection to which I found myself inclined) was his readiness to oblige, and generosity to serve me in those respects where I found a deficiency at home, which he testified with that ease which was almost peculiar to himself, and continued during my single state; but I afterwards found it different, for when I committed myself to the care of a husband, he thought me then enabled to face the world without his

M 2

notice,

notice, and on the death of his lady, who was a most agreeable woman, and truly my friend, he soon left the country after marrying a young wife.

CHAP. XIV.

UNDER various scenes of pleasure and disgust, the time passed as usual till the beginning of the year, 1758, when I began to lay my plan for my spring amusement, which will appear by the following epistle to my dear friend at Woking, with whom I always found great pleasure, first by the kind reception
I met

I met from the family, and likewise from the chearfulness of her disposition, I shall insert it as it then was wrote, as it will appear that there had been a previous invitation.

“Dear Miss Bund.

“*London, the 25th Feb. 1758.*

“I am much obliged by your kind epistle, and am sorry mine should have been so obscure as to make you low spirited, but it was not intentional; for it has long been my design to pay you a visit in the spring, as likewise to go to the other two places mentioned in my last; but I hope on that account, you will not refuse coming to town with me. You ask if I intend to be an adventurer in the Lottery? but to be

M 3

plain,

plain, I am rather faint-hearted as Mr. Griffith and my father last year bought us a ticket to try our luck, but on the fourteenth day of drawing behold it came up a blank; not to say it is always so, for I once got twenty pounds, I am nevertheless obliged by your wishes for my good success. The young lady, whom I mentioned to have jumped over my head in the marriage way is fixed at Canterbury; the others, one lives in Fleet-street, the other (Mrs. C——) in Goodman's-field's; she has not yet returned my visit since her last illness (in which her life was despaired of). I have lost another friend in the true sense of the word, a young widow whom death had before deprived of two husbands, and the grim tyrant was not then satisfied

tisfied, but has taken her from those temporary regions, before she had accomplished her twenty eighth year. Thus we see how transitory are our enjoyments, as while we are boasting of our happiness, and thinking ourselves secure in the choice of those in whose company we hope to pass a little of our time in pleasure, death, marriage, or some other unforeseen incident in life baffles our hopes, and by taking from us one friend after another (as I may truly say) leaves us again to apply to Providence for redress, whose blessings we daily experience, and where with due application, we need never fear having our desires accomplished.

“ But to vary the subject : I think the spring begins to rise apace, the sweet birds chaunting their

morning and evening lays I scarce ever hear, but I think how happy I shall be in a few months to have the enjoyment of my friends in the country, and the birds too, if nothing happens in the interval to interrupt our happiness. I think a certain gentleman was merry concerning the marriage settlement:—you say you can answer for yourself, that you are not going to marry, and so can I, and whenever I find I can answer no longer, I will inform you, (unless you get before-hand with me, and give me the slip,) that you may (if agreeable) make one of the number that may accompany me to church: it was almost dark when I wrote the few lines that are so crooked, but hope you'll excuse it, or set it down till you see me, and then settle accounts.

“ It

“ It is rumoured, that in taking down the old houses on London-bridge, there was found three pots of money of Queen Elizabeth’s coin. I believe times were not so expensive in those days as at present: if so, there would have been little necessity for hiding that desirable metal. If you want information respecting fashions, pray send word and I will apply to my sister, (Miss Griffith) whose compliments and mine please to accept, and present to your good family. I find your market is like many other things, but for a season. I hope this letter will afford you some amusement, and that it will excite from you one in return, as your’s give me much pleasure, and are hoarded up in my coffer; like the money above-mentioned I esteem them, not so much for the copies, as the hope of seeing the

original shortly. To conclude, I remain, dear Miss Bund,

“ Your’s in all sincerity, &c. &c.
I. E. GOBEIL.”

Some apologies are needful respecting the date of the above letter, which I have altered one year, in consequence of its having missed my hands, and was discovered too late to be inserted in regular course; but as no material information was thereby lost, I hope no notice will be taken, the year 1757 being the date of taking down the bridge, I thought it quite needful to notice it.

I really believe the succeeding part of this year, except the journey promised in my letter, passed with as few interesting circumstances as any I remember, barring one which may be thought material, viz. that my father increased very much his fortune during that and the remain-

ing years of the war, but I benefited at that time but little from it, for I was from the great increase of the trade, under the necessity of doubling, (if possible) my application, but I fortunately about that time made an acquisition of two neighbours, by our removal a few doors from the old situation; from the recreation which I could take at any time of the day, from their living near, and the partiality they shewed me, that many leisure hours passed comfortably, and as a confirmation of this assertion, the lady who came a bride into the neighbourhood a few years after, I am sorry to say, on her death-bed requested of me, (from the flattering ideas she entertained of my abilities,) to bring up her eldest son and take him wholly under my care, which I certainly did with the appro-

bation of his father, till he had nearly attained the age of fourteen years, and he is now, I am told, a promising young man, but his gratitude has not been sufficiently displayed, for him to visit me under my misfortunes; and as the major part of my connections from a previous observation, have been more particularly attentive, I confess I feel myself more sensibly affected, though I must not omit to observe, that he bought my coach horses, and promised to take all imaginable care of them, as he kept them for his own use.

With the other family I still maintain the same friendship as in that day, and they succeeded to me in the house I was taken from, when under persecution. The two gentlemen, one at Hamptonwick, who so often wrote, and the other, who continued his

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accumulation plan still, were led to hope each for themselves, that time might bring about the accomplishment of their wishes; but I am sorry to declare, that the latter on communicating (in confidence) his desires to a friend was deceived, as the gentleman (if I may so call him) waited on me about the beginning of the year 1759 on the same errand, and that under the sanction of my father: that he was by birth and education a gentleman, is without dispute, but the gloominess of his disposition was not by any means suited to my volatile temper; I therefore put an immediate negative upon this business, and soon after he married, from what motive I am not able to say, but I believe money was not the temptation, and on some unexpected disappointment, he put a period to his existence by a pistol.

The

The gentleman whose secret being discovered, had not taken me out of the way, in a very friendly and respectful letter, informed me, that he hoped he had with great attention, added sufficiently to his fortune to gratify my most ambitious views; and in consequence he got admission to my company, with my father's and my approbation; but notwithstanding he was very agreeable, I did not find he was the man to my taste in conversation: I therefore insisted on his coming to live with my father, if he meant to persist, which I knew he had a particular aversion to; so I played it off as a very convenient manœuvre, and for that time put an end to the business; which was more speedily accomplished by some intelligence my father

father had of an inter-marriage in the family, by two brothers in succession marrying the same person. My dear friends Mr. and Mrs. V——, who interested themselves ever in my behalf, severely reprov'd me on this matter, and wish'd me to permit Mr. P——l to visit me at their house, as his having so respectable a character, they thought an opportunity much to my advantage; but the little propensity I had to a married life every year decreasing, prevented the power of their influence.

The spring again advancing, I fix'd for my annual recreation to go again to Woking, on account of seeing the camp which was formed in that neighbourhood on Send-Heath, and consist'd of four regiments, commanded by the following respectable personages, viz. Lord
George

George Lenox, Lord Effingham Howard, Lord George Bentinck and General Cornwallis. As the gentlemen many of them visited at my friend's the Rector, it made the time pass very agreeably; and one thing I think, will ever reflect a lasting honour on the first of those Right Hon. Gentlemen, is, that he presented every private man in his regiment that could read with a common prayer book; and in the most scorching heat, set the example of standing uncovered during the performance of divine worship.

The young lady whom I noticed under the appellation of sister, was as I thought, going to marry in my absence, which was the occasion of my writing the following epistle, but as it proved was needless as the marriage did not take place till

till twelve months after; however,
I shall give it briefly as it is.

“ Dear sister,

“ London the 10th May, 1759.

“ According to promise
I write this, to inform you of our
safe arrival at Woking: Miss B——
was greatly indisposed on the road,
but is at present perfectly recovered.
I have not yet been at the camp, but
see it at a distance every hour of the
day. My best wishes attend you in
your great undertaking, and as it is
the most important step on this side
the grave to make life happy, so
may kind Providence interpose to
make you as compleatly so as your
heart can wish. I have not time at
present to write you a congratulatory
epistle, as I am greatly taken up
with the good family I am with, and
the

the thoughts of going out on parties of pleasure. Pray make my compliments acceptable to Mr. and Mrs. Griffith and Mr. B——, and tell them at a proper opportunity I shall give them joy likewise. Excuse defects, as pen and ink are bad. I expect to hear from you on your receiving this, for reasons assigned at our parting. I hope yourself and connections enjoy a good state of health, which blessing, thank God, attends her who is,

“ Dear sister,

“ your’s with the greatest

“ amity, &c. &c. &c.

“ I. E. GOBEIL.”

“ P. S. Miss Bund’s compliments to yourself and family:

“ Miss Mary Griffith.”

Every

Every wish respecting pleasure and amusement, was duly accomplished; reviews and other military exhibitions, almost daily presented themselves, which with the races and other amusements, made time pass very agreeably; and I cannot since forget seeing in one regiment, the most beautiful black horse I ever beheld: he was then thirty years old, (for so long the Major to whom he belonged, had been his master :) he was nursed like a child, and performed his exercises with the same regularity, as he had done during the two wars he had been employed.

CHAP.

C H A P. XV.

A FEW months after the above, my father was prevailed on to take me with him to Cambridge, whither at one season of the year, all the principal people in the staple branches of wool and leather resorted, to which place we set out on a Sunday morning at four o'clock, in a post-chaise, where breakfasting at the Crown-inn, at Ware, the great bed, (which is said to have accommodated forty-eight people to sleep together) was shewn: it was certainly a most awkward piece of furniture, as may be supposed; and I
be-

believe the absurdity of exhibiting so ridiculous a model, is now avoided. Notwithstanding the badness of the roads in that day, we reached our inn, distance 54 miles the same night, but not without getting sufficiently wet in crossing a Mill-stream, which was much swollen with the great rains that frequently fall in the equinoctial seasons: nor could any arguments the driver and myself used, prevail on my father's temper to relinquish going through this water, which might very easily have been avoided. The fine corn-land called Fowlmore-fields, and the Gog Magog hills, (the estate of the Earl of Godolphin) presented each in their turn a pleasing prospect, as this country was to me quite new.

The

The next morning I was taken to King's-college chapel, in which appear to great advantage, those fine antique painted glass windows, which represent the history of the Old Testament, in the upper and that of the New in the bottom part of the window, in the most exquisite fine colours, and most just expression of any thing of the kind I have yet seen; and I presume those who have seen that noble piece of architecture, will coincide with me in opinion; the roof of which is equally lofty with other cathedrals, and has no visible support, but is placed with such regularity, as to strike the eye with wonder and amazement.

After seeing the above, we set out for Sherbitch, the place where a large mart or fair is held, (and on which

which account to attend the traders at this time, there used formerly many coaches to go from London to this place, for the sole purpose of plying for hire), but since the custom of travelling in trade has been adopted, less of that accommodation is wanting. After looking round a few hours, and seeing many people with whom I was acquainted in town, I was most agreeably surprized by the presence of my dear friend Mrs. V——, who, on hearing I was there, had taken the opportunity of coming with her worthy partner to meet me; her kind sympathy towards me, leading her where ever I was to be met, as knowing too well the harsh treatment I was subjected to, on which we immediately returned to Cambridge, and took a cursory view of all that demanded
our

our notice ; among which was Trinity Library, nothing can be more superbly neat ; the collegians justly giving it the preference to any other. Among the curiosities, exclusive of the manuscripts, was an Egyptian mummy, and several birds preserved in the same curious manner, a large stone, extracted from a human body after death : and some heathen idols. The justness of the marble pavement, and the partial arrangement of the books, well deserves attention.

We next proceeded to St. John's and St. Mary Magdalen's, in one of which chapels is a fine marble altar-piece of exquisite workmanship : I cannot now recollect, which was the last that we were in, but from the minute observations we made, we neglected to observe the

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shutting up of the gates, and on endeavouring to get back to supper in time, found to our great surprize we were locked in; this was in one respect, truly a most laughable circumstance, particularly as my dear friend was remarkably sensible and fond of repartee: we waited sometime in uneasy suspense, before there seemed any probability of our release, but at last to our unspeakable comfort, a genteel gownsmen appeared, to whom, as carrying the most youthful countenance, I was deputed to go and relate our grievance, which I did in the most pathetic stile I was mistress of; on which the youth with much pleasantness, went and obtained our enlargement. On return to our friends, where they had provided a supper and were waiting for us, we related the story in our own strain of merriment,

which caused diversion sufficient, as it remained a doubt, whether we might not have met a kind reception where we were enclosed.

The next morning was proposed for our return, but on Mrs. V——'s inspecting her baggage the preceding evening, she found that not strictly attending to the putting up her cloaths, she had left a part of her upper travelling dress at an inn on the road, and not being disposed to reveal so important a secret, I was to assist in a manœuvre to pass off the mistake, (which could be rectified by no other means than writing from town to the landlady,) the only plan our ingenuity had pointed out, was for me to go into their room in the morning, by way of giving notice to rise, and at the same time to recommend a warm dress, as the weather was cold and hazy, which was only

only to be made complete with the assistance of some of my linen that had been water-soaked: as this contrivance succeeded, we after breakfast took another turn round the University, and immediately set leisurely out for London, and in the evening reached the Crown Inn at Hockrell, so well known by the gentlemen of the turf, who mostly accommodate themselves at this place on their way to Newmarket. The adventures of this journey, in the course of only four days, have amused us many hours at different times since, and I found myself fully satisfied with such an agreeable jaunt.

The above circumstance being after Michaelmas, Christmas soon succeeded, and as usual passed in visiting my particular friends, one of whom being a wealthy north-country widow, we partook of one

day's mirth in the stile of her country, which consisted of plenty of excellent cheer, and cards most part of the night: she was indeed a perfect emblem of generosity, which she fully exemplified in great liberality to me, but much more by displaying her benevolence in bringing up poor children, which she did from their infancy, many of whom have since lived in a very respectable manner.

The spring of the year 1760, and indeed the remaining months, most of them wore a gloomy aspect, for my father's dissipation encreasing, brought on a variety of ills, as he frequently, on having spent more money than he chose to account for, would censure every one in his way; and as he could with me use the greatest freedom, I was the only ostensible sufferer. This, with the difficulty of his being pleased in his diet,
(though

(though he always had an excellent cook,) made peace an almost total stranger to the family; and passion prevailing where reason should have presided, had several times been nearly fatal.

I sustained the loss likewise of my neighbour and friend, whose son I since fostered, and likewise the eldest daughter of the family, who now live in the house I left, and whose funeral rites I attended in the evening of the nineteenth of May, and on the twentieth in the morning, I was cloathed throughout in new attire, to take on me the part of a bride-maid, to my dear friend and nominal sister, Miss G——, but who marrying more in compliance with the wish of her friends than herself, I own did not make me so susceptible of the extraordinary contrast which I had met

with in the course of twelve or fourteen hours; by those various alterations taking place, I found myself in a very short time deprived of three of my most intimate connections, at least so far as to oblige me to go much farther after the two living ones, and to have some very awful reflections on the death of the third, which were much augmented by two others of the same family, being at the same time ill, and that with the like disease, (which was epidemic) from whom no arguments whatever could prevail on me to be absent; and in my desire to oblige, providence protected me as I found no inconvenience.

By way of alleviation to my misfortunes, my vacation approaching, I determined to spend that time with my ever esteemed friend, with whom I had been shut up in college,
(Mrs.

(Mrs. V——) their house being then at Beckenham in Kent, and where I partook as usual (in her company) of such pleasure as my heart could wish. But it is with horror I declare, that not many months after, my father by some indiscreet flight or other in his temper, deprived me of that most invaluable treasure, by some inconsistent altercation in trade, where not content to share the disagreement, he cruelly forbade me having any farther intercourse with that dear lady. I really don't know, literally speaking, whether the messenger of death would have been more awful, or could have yielded to me a more violent sensation, than I at that time felt, as I certainly had no chance of replacing her with any one who could so essentially serve me. I however made some new con-

nections, particularly with the family of the present Lady Littleton, which being numerous, and possessing great abilities, I sometimes found great relief in their company; but the distance being much greater, proved a bar to that intimacy, which seemed to meet the wishes of all parties; and I have the pleasure to say that the friendship is not yet wholly eradicated. Some young ladies who were quakers, and very agreeable, at times added to the society which in some measure alleviated my thoughts, but still the remembrance of the many pleasant evenings, were too frequently interfering, and made me very unhappy.

The autumn of this year, I may say, sealed my unfortunate fate, for an article in trade proving scarce at the instigation of a neighbour in the same manufactory, Mr Moore
(my

(my late husband,) applied for a supply of the same at our warehouse, when the demand from those who had long wanted, caused frequent opportunities for his dropping in, under pretence of giving fresh instructions, where it was to be shipped; I must confess I by no means perceived his intentions, and on my writing to him, signifying the improbability of a supply in the article required, I neither saw or heard from him during several months; and Oh! happy would it have been had our intercourse then ended, at least as far as human foresight dictates; but alas! we see imperfectly, not considering the first cause, from which source alone, we are to derive our various successes in this life, and who for various ends, veils at one time or other of our existence our most anxious desires, for such

wife reasons as alone are attendant on the divine attributes.

During the interval, in which I lost sight of my unfortunate friend, the death of the late King interfered, and the exertion required on that occasion was so great on my part, (in business) that I could scarcely obtain time for my natural repose, on which account one of my father's companions being a watch-maker, (and in the employ of the court,) prevailed on him to give him orders to make me a new and elegant watch, which was to be done without my privity or knowledge, but on our being together at our friend Mrs. V——'s, they insisted on his gratifying me in some shape or other, when he made the above declaration, and that really was the only present of value I ever received at his hands, during the seven years I mortified myself

self in submitting to every possible fatigue which I never could by any means have done; but from the motives to which I was urged from innate principles, as judging according to my ability how far my duty urged the impulse; and had I not adhered more strongly to the dictates of religion than reason, I never had been able to persevere; for under the consideration of even my mother's cloaths and jewels being sacrificed for want of regard to me, to a second wife, withholding from me a legacy left me by one of my mother's relations; and above all, if by chance we went out together, taking me to taverns for morning gills, and barring me every pleasure allowed to others, except upon extraordinary emergencies at the suit of my friends, it will be I dare say easily surmised, that I must have (when to

all this was added what I have before related) had many struggles between duty and compliance: but for the satisfaction this conformity on mature reflection has yielded me, through all the difficulties to which I have been subjected, I wish to recommend to my young friends, that strict attention to parental authority, which may at all times render them that solid consolation which can by no other means be obtained.

Soon after Christmas, to my surprize one afternoon appeared Mr. Moore, of whom I had lost every remembrance, till he made himself known to me, which he did by informing me he was acquainted with a lady whom I visited, and by the attention he seemed to pay to books, (which was merely feigned) we entered into a little commonplace conversation, but still being accustomed

customed to flattery, from the constant intercourse I had with the sex, I paid little regard to any thing that fell from him on that subject; but repeated application at last convinced me of his intentions towards me as a wife: he was certainly a man of agreeable appearance and address, and as I determined by way of protection (as I then thought) to adhere to such whose permanent situation, (at least what appeared such) should in some measure direct me, I after a few weeks consented to my father being acquainted therewith: on my first introducing my lover to him as my friend, I supposed from his appearance he was ten or twelve years in advance over and above my own age, in which discretion was my guide.— In consequence of several visits on the occasion, a time was proposed for inspecting his concerns in trade,

(which were as it since proved, held out in a two-fold appearance) upon which every thing seemed promising, and terms as Mr. Moore informed me, were mutually agreed on. In a matter of such delicacy, I was not so timid as not on my own behalf to make every needful inquiry among my friends, respecting the character and situation of the man I meant to adopt as a husband; and indeed I seemed to gain therein every satisfaction I could wish; but I am sorry to say, that in those cases people, some from the hope of a reformation, and others from the fear of their suspicions not being well-grounded, concealed his propensity to that vice, which not only in future disturbed my quiet, but brought on me eventually every evil which the mind of man could suggest;—but of that more hereafter.

Every

Every thing seemed at this time to go on extremely well; and a journey to Woking was proposed for us all together, my father on horse-back, and ourselves in a post-chaise: we as usual received a very polite welcome at our old friend's, Mr. B——, where (as every thing seemed settled, the young ladies who were three in number, thought it a most favourable opportunity for their father joining our hands, and for them to officiate as bride-maids; but I wished, as prudence dictated, to turn the matter over in my mind a few months longer, least by being too precipitate in a matter of such moment, I might irretrievably err; for which reason, no argument whatever, even from my respectable and experienced adviser the Rector, could prevail. I cannot help notwithstanding the gravity of my present topic,

topic, noticing a laughable adventure which happened to a gentleman, who was on a love-errand to my favourite the eldest daughter of that respectable family. The camp being fixed on the same spot, four successive years, (this being one) the soldiers were (as is generally the case) making depredations over the country in the evening, and from such an idea, the lady of this house fancied she heard some people in the garden, and though we were quite diverted at the matter, and wished to convince her to the contrary, she still persisted, when construing her to be at last right, we all sallied forth in dread array, to detect the thief, when on the stranger who was rather low in stature, turning a corner without light, we on a sudden heard him fall into a large reservoir or cess-pool, which contained
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all the foul liquor from the kitchen and scullery: this, though it caused a general risibility in the young folks, brought a severe reprehension from the divine, particularly as no depredations appeared to be made, and in course the beau who spoiled his courting suit, was in some measure displeased; but this only subjecting him more to our censure, he contented himself with dispensing with the temporary relief of his clerical friend's assistance in the clothing way, and the next day the joke subsided.

At the time appointed for my return, my father deputed Mr. Moore to fetch me to town, to which he gave sanction, by accommodating him with his horse, which was to be returned by our servant, and we were to come together in a post-chaise, which was complied with, and all things for a few weeks seemed to
wear

wear the appearance of friendship and good harmony, till on a sudden gust of humour in my father, I found an alteration in his sentiments; but he would to me assign no reason whatever, but was continually upbraiding me with the choice I had made, and vilifying my lover in every sense of the word, at which I was much alarmed, and informed him that if he could declare any substantial reasons for retracting from every thing he had said, I would accede to his wish of breaking off the connection; but if not, as I had avoided troubling him in matters of that sort till I was fixed in my determination, I was in honour bound to continue the correspondence; but the same degree of obstinacy continuing as before had been the case, I found that parting with the money he had promised, (which was really

really but a small proportion of my earning,) was the real cause of the grievance, and which Mr. Moore was soon given to understand; on which professing for me such an inviolable attachment, he offered to marry me without my father's consent; but in that particular, my pride was sensibly affected, having with indefatigable industry, assisted in getting together many thousand pounds, I thought myself intitled to a daughter's share, and informed Mr. Moore that as I was fully determined, (in the true sense of the word) not to be obligated to any man breathing, I wished him to desist, and no longer to consider me as the object of his choice; and I accordingly refused seeing him for some time; but the attorney we had for many years employed, having my interest at heart, took on him the part of mediator in
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the business, but to no purpose for that time, that matters were by those means some time kept in suspense, and during which a market proposal was made to my father on my account, by a very rich family, but as I was to have no voice in forming the contract, I literally objected to it; but the suspense being declared among my friends, my patient lover at Hamptonwick, took the opportunity of waiting personally on me, making the most honourable pretensions that honesty could suggest, and when I declared to him a prior engagement, he with equal honour said, his only wish was to see me happy, and he hoped that would be accomplished with equal propriety in the preference I had given; under that idea, he relinquished, at the same time giving Mr. Moore and myself a kind invitation to his house in comfort,
and

and he after my being married two years, sent Mr. Moore a genteel present, in acknowledgement of the regard he had for me in each state.

C H A P. XVI.

AFTER some farther altercations between my father and Mr. Moore, matters were at last compromised, and a time nearly fixed for celebrating our nuptials; but the instability of my father's temper carrying with it an idea to the world of the uncertainty of bringing things to a conclusion, my old friend and lover Mr. P——, thought there might be some glimmering ray of hope for him, flattered with which idea he sent his attorney to me, (with a *carte blanche*), when he proposed not only to settle on me what my father might think pro-

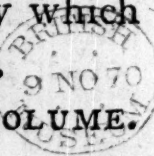
proper to give, but likewise all that he himself possessed without leaving himself master of a single shilling; but as I viewed such behaviour in the light of phrenzy, if I had not really been otherwise fixed, I should not have countenanced such inconsistent behaviour; and am sorry to say, that on this final disappointment, he declared his intention of marrying the first who would accept his offer, which happened to be a very prudent young person of good family, though she had no fortune: but from the rashness of his conduct, such uneasy reflections prevailed as confirmed in him so strong a habit of drinking, that about ten or twelve years after he died thereto a martyr, but not before he had taken an opportunity of declaring to my husband that I had been the cause of his untimely death, which he

foresaw approaching with hasty strides, and that (to use his own words) I should have his life to answer for ; but as I was not conscious of the crime that was alledged any farther than the preference given to the indulgence of my own fancy, I did not feel myself particularly affected ; but Mr. Moore fired so much with resentment, that he declared that if he had not been fully convinced that he was at the point of death he would have given him a challenge ; a few weeks succeeding this period, (as it appeared sympathetic) closed with him the scene of this mortal life, leaving a widow and one daughter, much better provided for than from his dissipated course could have been expected.

My father, to the very last endeavoured to throw in the way some or other imputation, to bar the union ;
and

and offered to settle on me (seeing the loss the trade must sustain in my absence) a sum of money to take me into the business, as a partner; and to provide for me a servant extraordinary; but during all those trying circumstances I was deprived of my dear friend, and counsellor Mrs. V———, I had lost my guide, and the fear of not doing my duty on one hand, and the apprehension of forfeiting my honour, on the other, were matter of such weight in my comprehension, that I knew not how to decide; but after mature deliberation, I yielded to the then wishes of my heart, and consented to fix the day of marriage, to which my father so far agreed, as to go with my lover, to take out the licence, and the 10th day of October 1761, was the day which engaged me in a married life.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



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